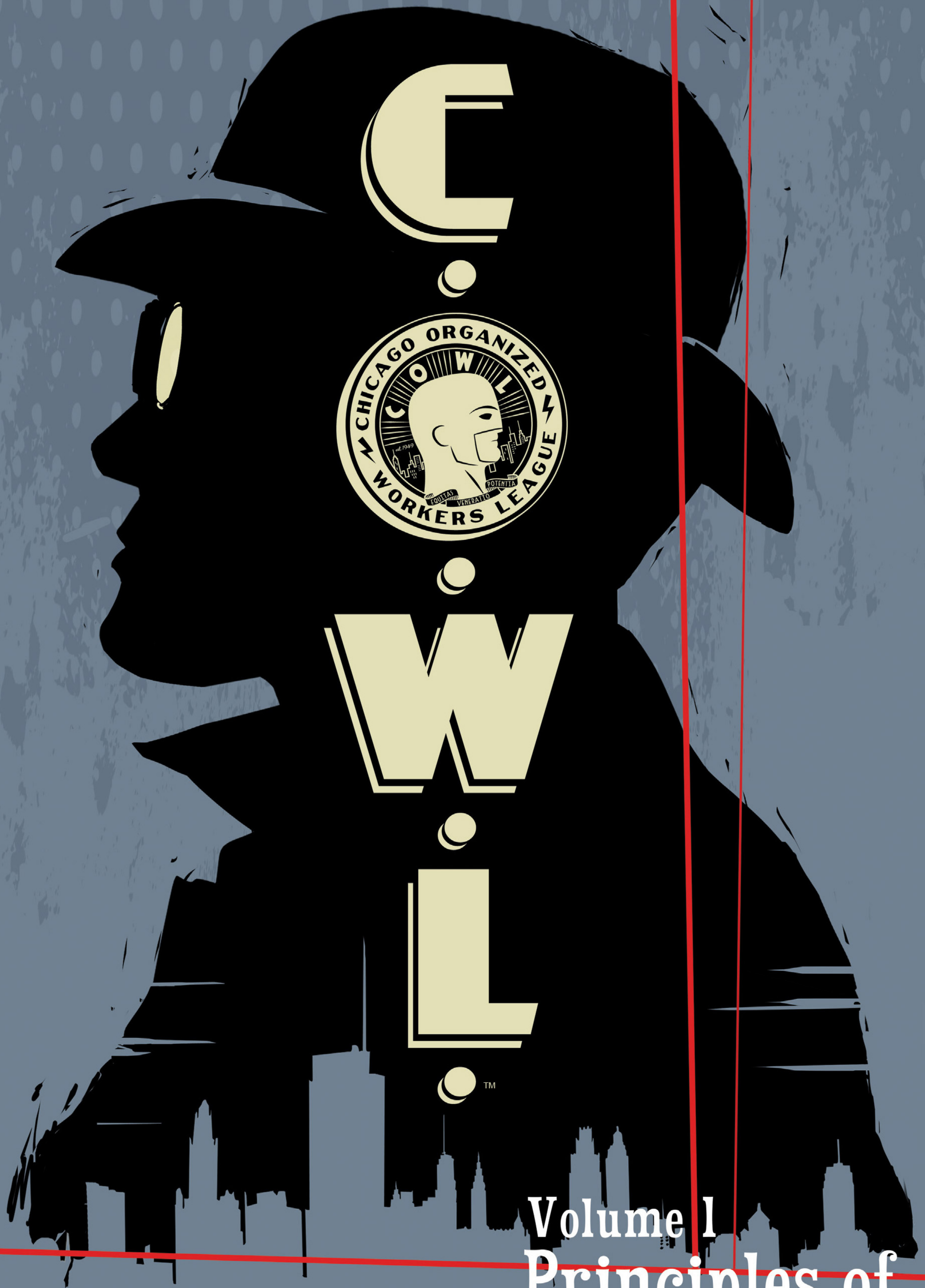




Volume I
Principles of
Power

Kyle Higgins

Alec Siegel

Rod Reis





Principles of Power

KYLE HIGGINS

ALEC SIEGEL

STORY

ROD REIS

ART

STÉPHANE PERGER

ADDITIONAL ART ISSUE 4

TROY PETERI

LETTERS

ANDY SCHMIDT

EDITS

TREVOR MCCARTHY

COVERS

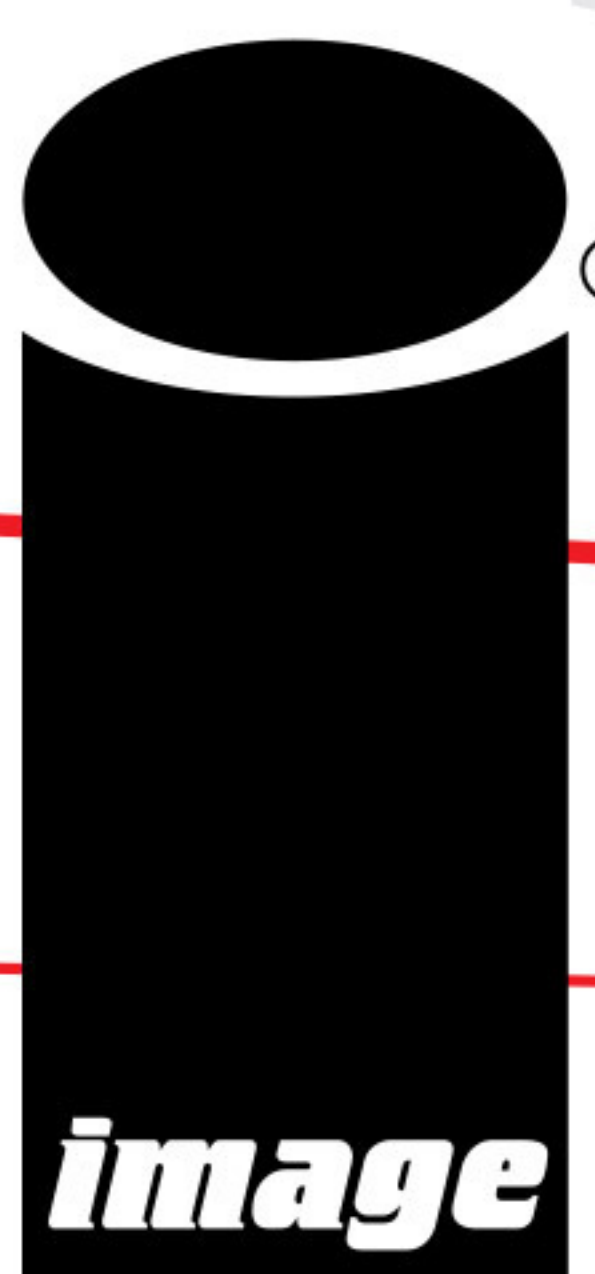
RICH BLOOM

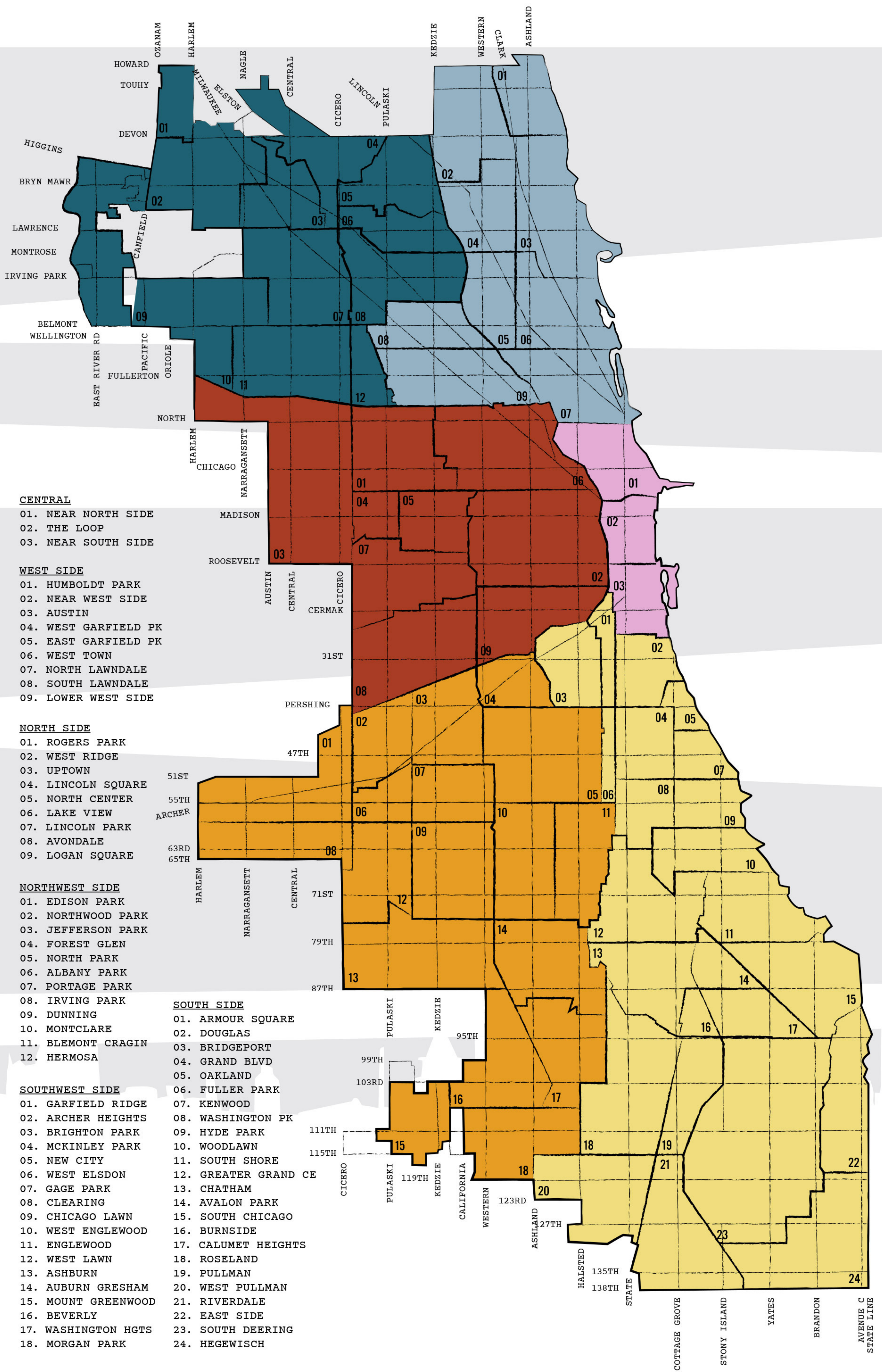
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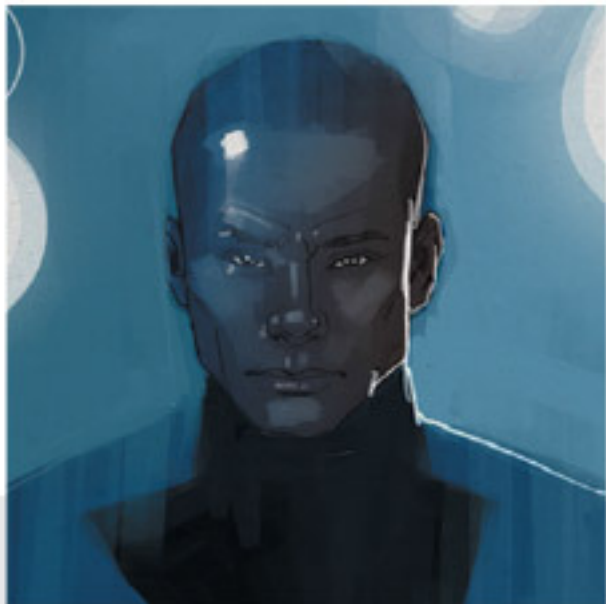




Geoffrey Warner (The Grey Raven)
C.O.W.L. Chief
Sharpshooter, Master Strategist, Unpowered



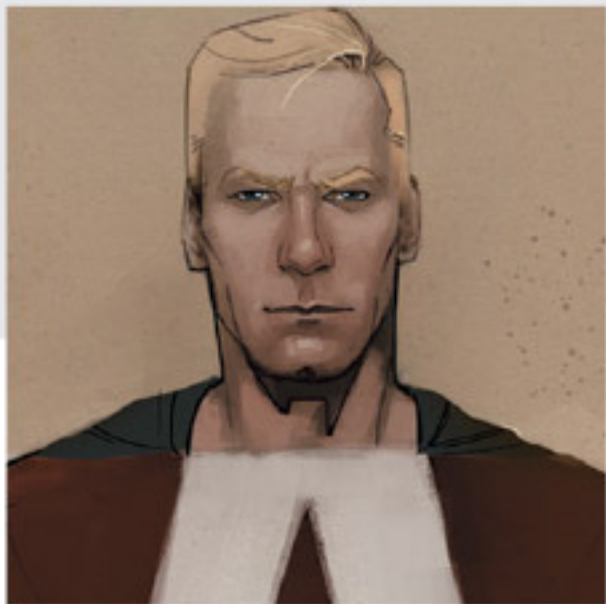
Reginald Davis (Blaze)
Deputy C.O.W.L. Chief/Head of Tactical
Zero-Point Energy Gauntlet



Kathryn Mitchell (Radia)
Tactical Division
Telekinesis



Tom Haydn (Arclight)
Tactical Division
Flight, Focused Energy Bursts



John Pierce
Investigations
Detective, Unpowered



Grant Marlow
Patrol Division – West Side
Sharpshooter, Unpowered



Karl Samoski (Eclipse)
Patrol Division – West Side
Anti-Kinetics, Power Disruption



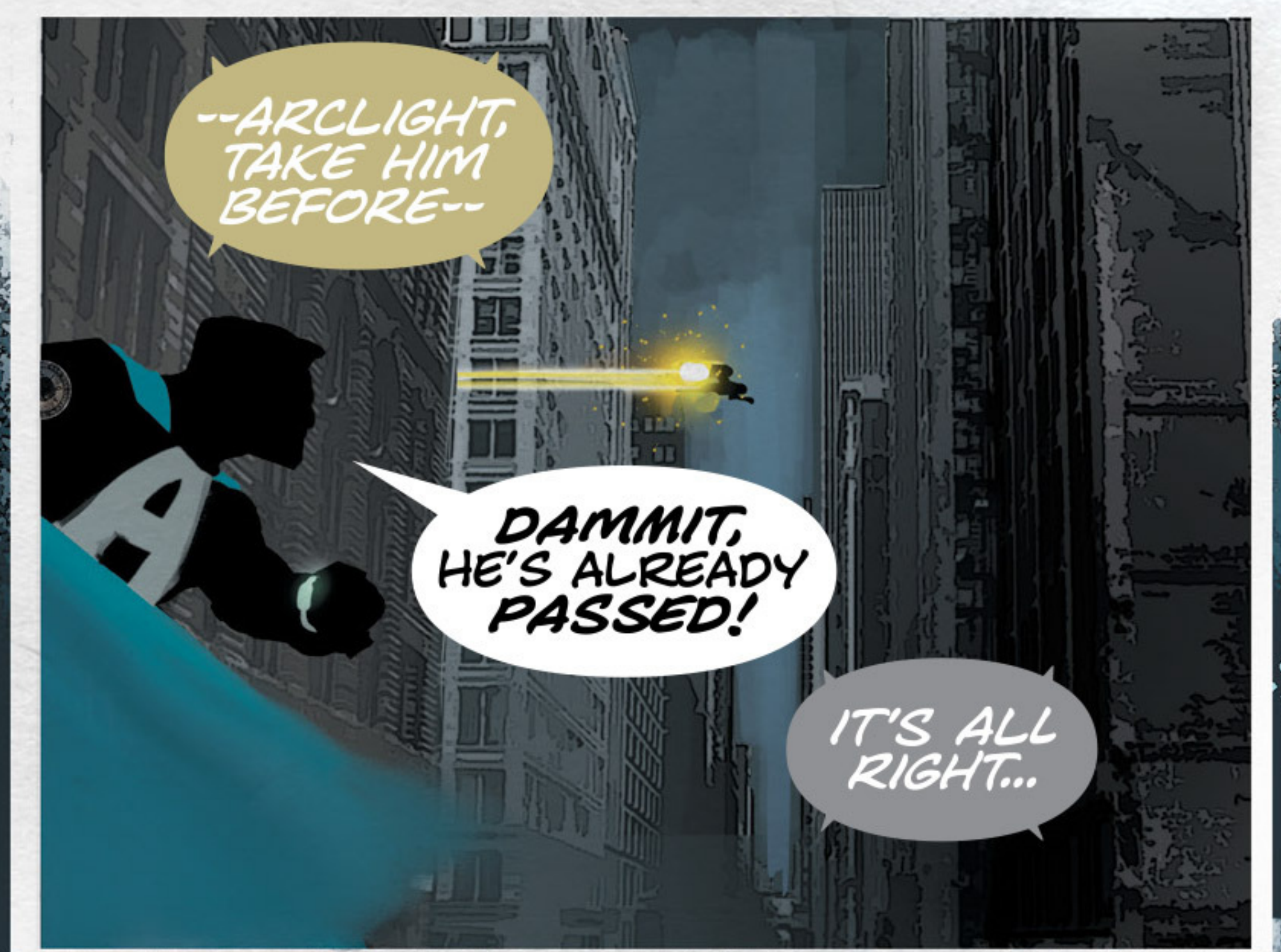
- PATROL DISTRICTS
- CENTRAL
 - NORTH
 - NORTHWEST
 - SOUTH
 - SOUTHWEST
 - WEST SIDE



CHICAGO, 1962



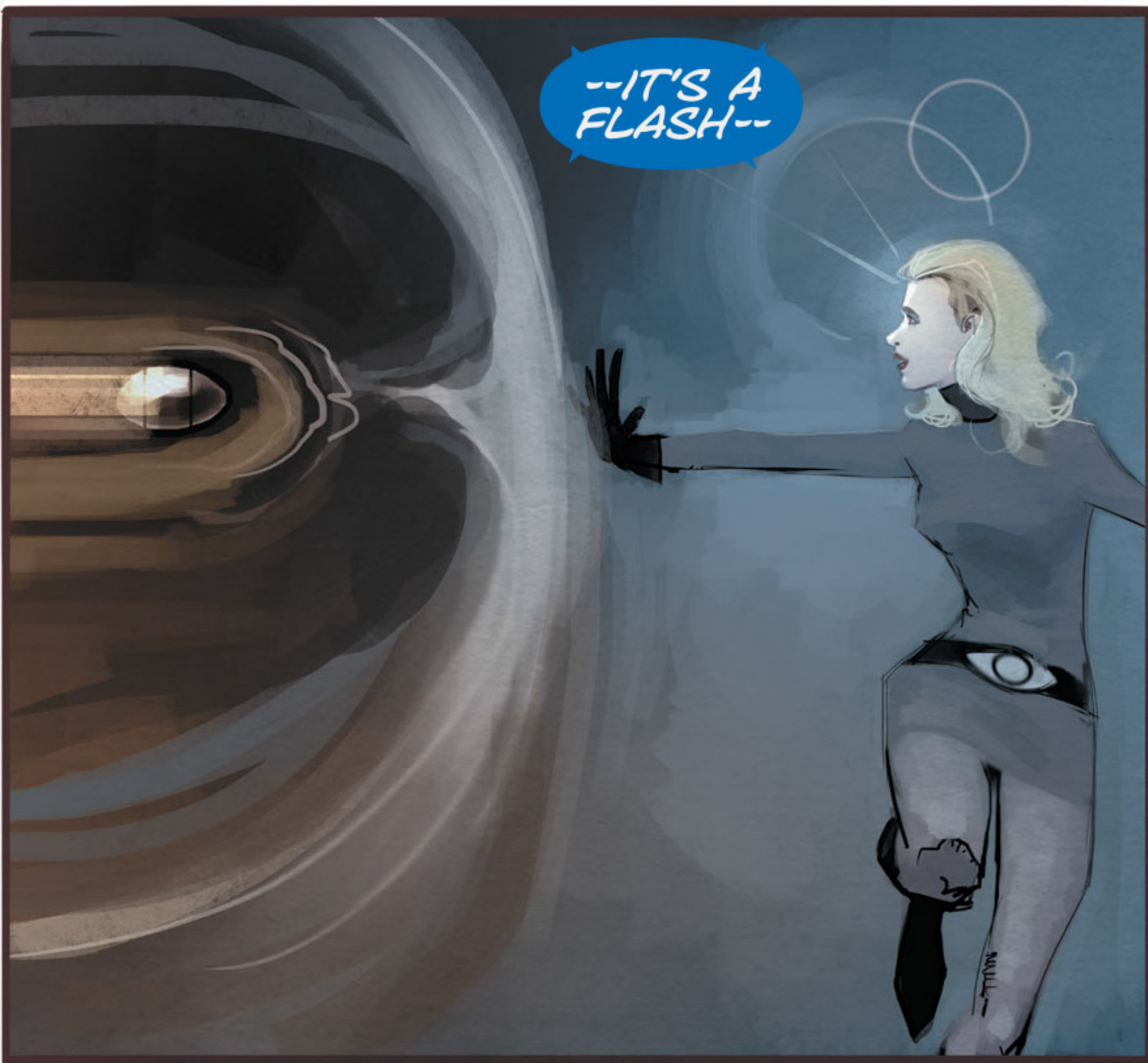






YOU HAVE
NOTHING, COW!

RADIA,
WAIT--



--IT'S A
FLASH--



UHN!



HOLD
ON--

UHHHHH...

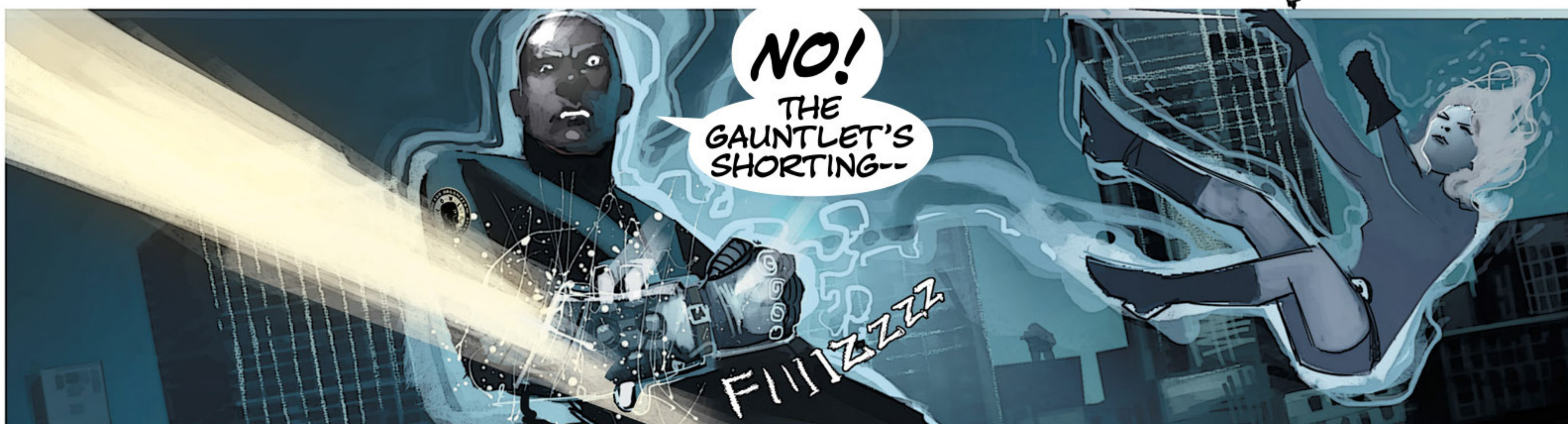
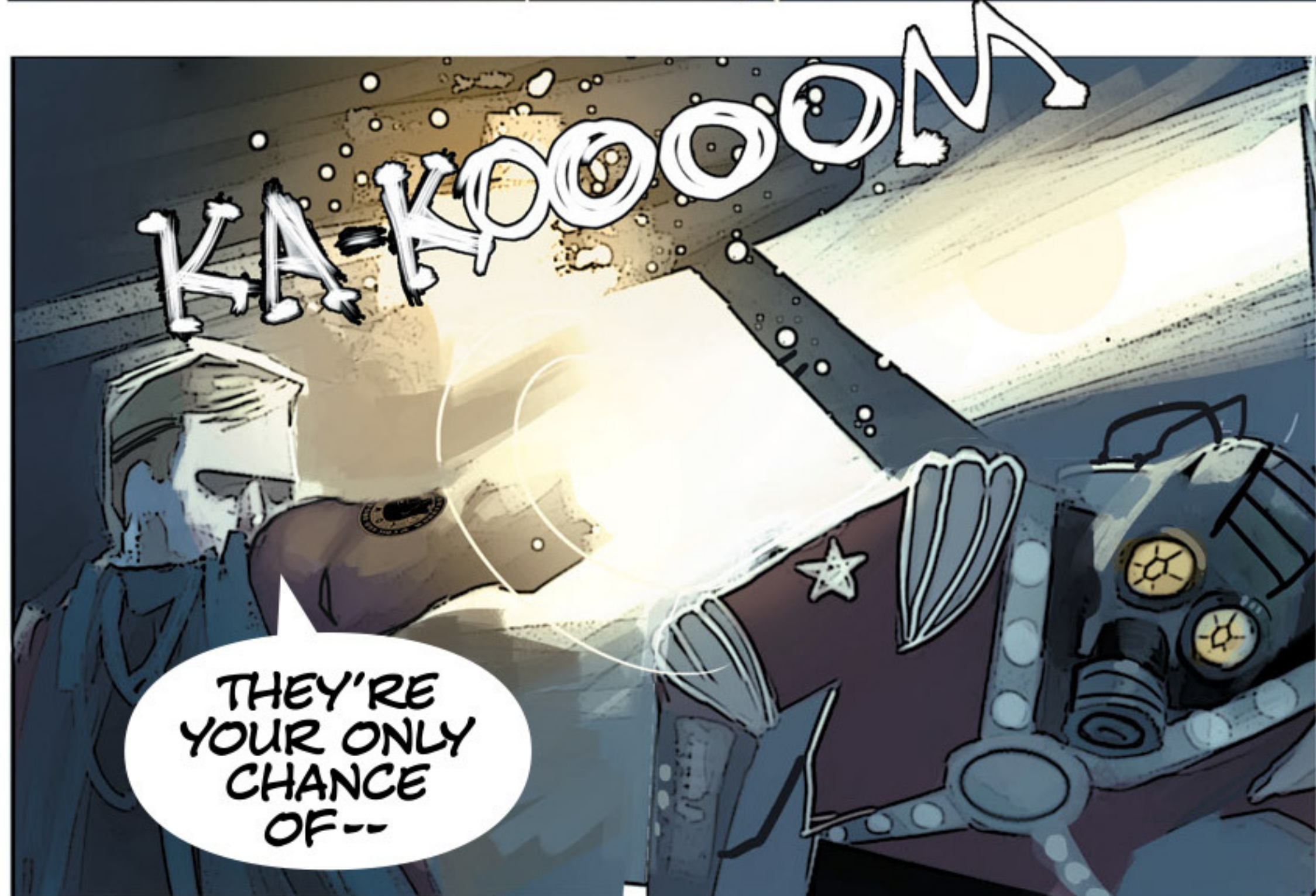


--I'VE
GOT
YOU!
YOU'RE
OKAY!

I-I
CAN'T SEE...
M-MY
EYES...



HEY,
IVAN!





HELP
MEEE--

OH JESUS, HE'S
SLAUGHTERING
THEM!

ARCLIGHT--
BLAZE IS DOWN.
RADIA IS BLIND.
WHERE--

I'M FREE OF
THE JETPACK!
GIMME THIRTY
SECONDS--

WE
DON'T
HAVE
IT!

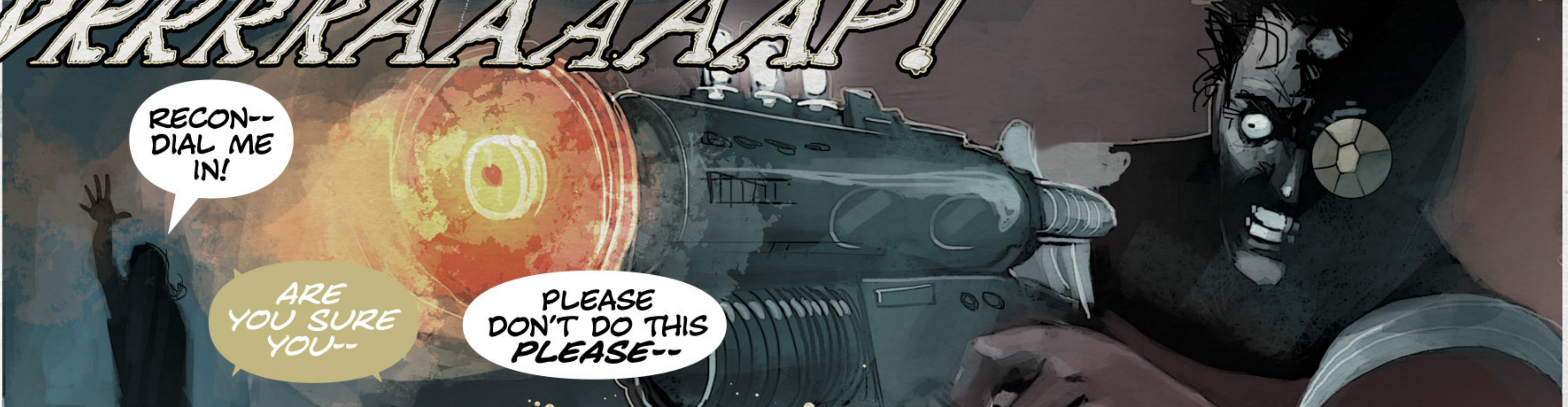
AIEEE!

VRRRRRAAAAAP! VRRRRRAAAAAP!



AIEEE--

VRRRRRAAAAAP!



RECON--
DIAL ME
IN!

ARE
YOU SURE
YOU--

PLEASE
DON'T DO THIS
PLEASE--

VRRRRRAAAAAP!



DO IT!

TEN DEGREES
TO YOUR LEFT!
FIFTY, FIFTY-ONE
FEET IN FRO--

IS IT
FIFTY OR
FIFTY-ONE?!

FIFTY-ONE!

NNN



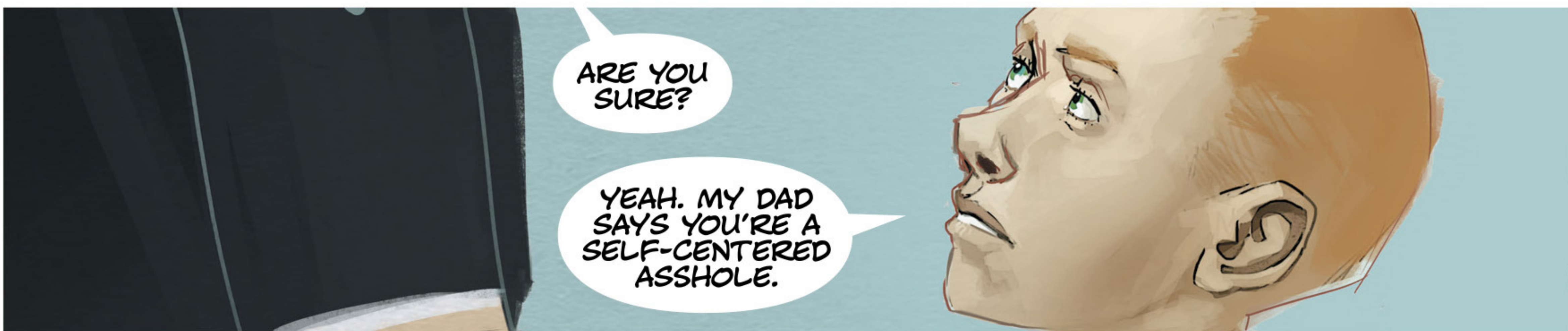




CHAPTER I

Motivation







--ALL CURRENT EVIDENCE POINTS TO SKYLANCER WORKING ALONE.

THAT SAID, I'VE ASSIGNED A SECURITY DETAIL TO STAY WITH THE ALDERMAN UNTIL WE'RE SURE THERE IS NO FURTHER THREAT ON HIS LIFE.



FINALLY, IN LIGHT OF LAST NIGHT'S TRAGEDIES, C.O.W.L. WILL BE COORDINATING WITH CITY OFFICIALS AND WILL BE MAKING DONATIONS TO THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES.

NOW THEN. QUESTIONS?

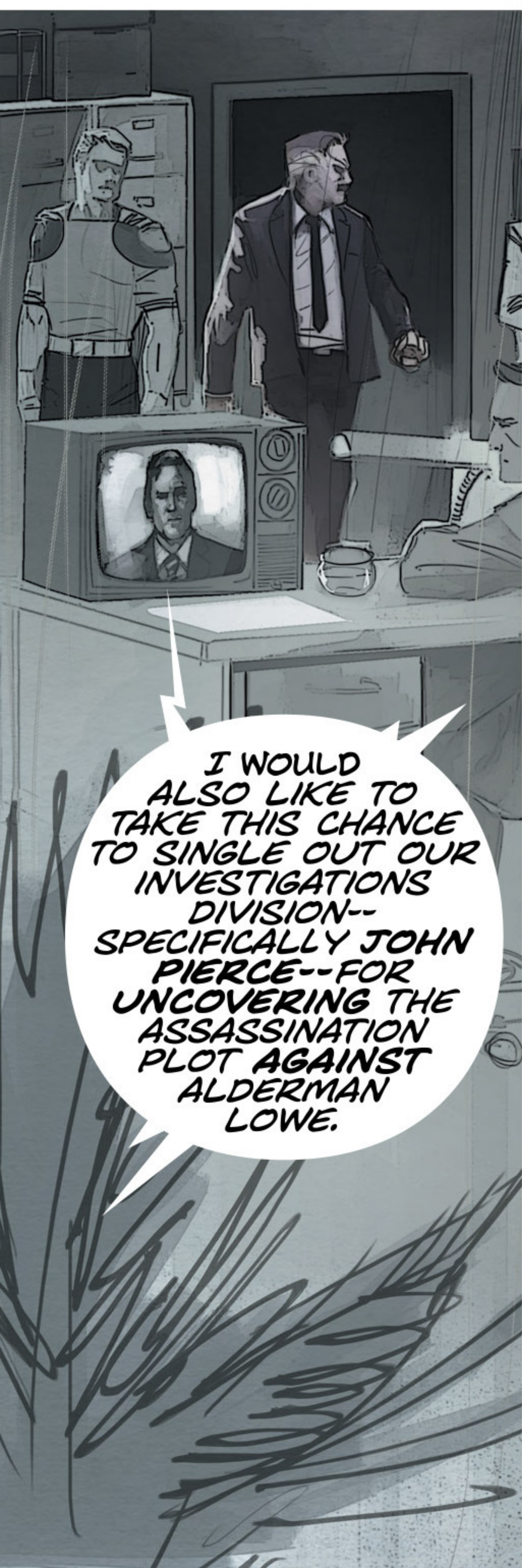


ARE YOU WORRIED YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE MAYOR YET?

WHY WOULD I BE WORRIED? WE'RE SITTING DOWN AGAIN NEXT WEEK. THIS IS THE WAY CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS GO.



OF COURSE, I'D BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T MENTION THAT SKYLANCER WAS THE LAST OF THE CHICAGO SIX. WITH HIM GONE, THE CITY IS UNDENIABLY SAFER. AND THAT'S THANKS TO C.O.W.L.



I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS CHANCE TO SINGLE OUT OUR INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION--SPECIFICALLY JOHN PIERCE--FOR UNCOVERING THE ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST ALDERMAN LOWE.



HEY, JOHN, YOU GOT A CALL OUT.

MM.

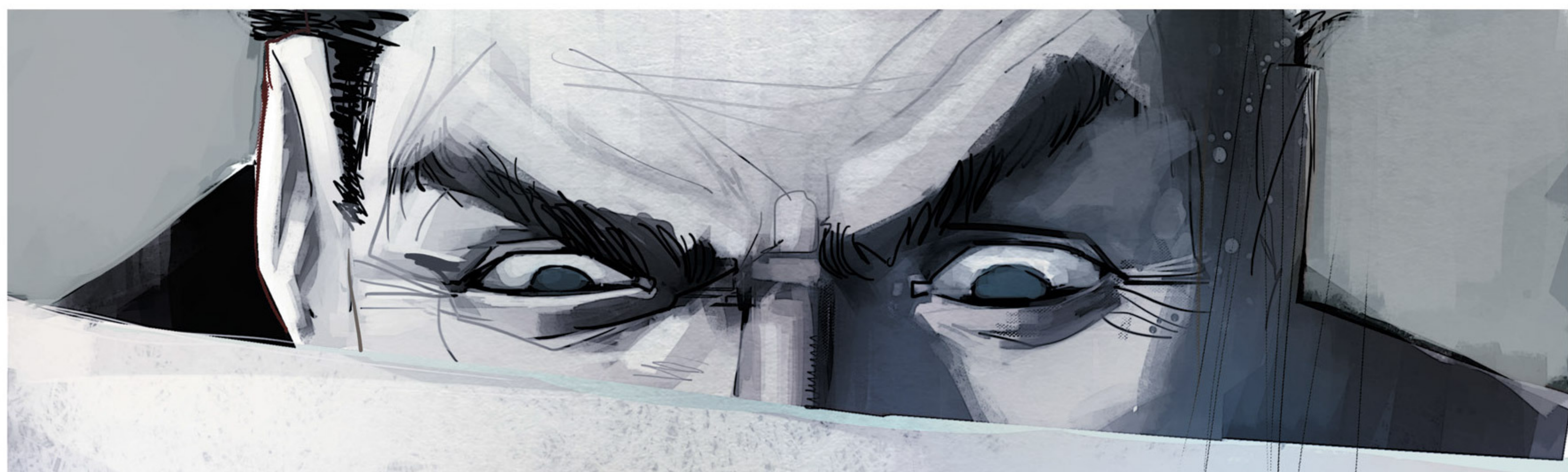


AND YOU'RE UNHAPPY...

HE'S DOING IT AGAIN.

DOING WHAT?

SAYING HE KNOWS MORE THAN HE DOES.









AAAAAH...
HHAAAA...



CHRIST, KEN.
YOU WHINE LIKE
A LITTLE
BITCH...



GOOD TO
SEE THE COMMUNITY
OUTREACH PROGRAM
IS GOING WELL.



HEY HEY! JOHNNY
BOY! CONGRATS ON
THE SKYLANCER!

THANK
YOU.

IT-IT-
BURNS MY
MOUTH...



TAP

ALL
RIGHT!
SHUT UP
ALREADY,
KEN!



IS HE--

AHH
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
HIM.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



I... HAVE SOMETHING TO
RUN DOWN, AND I COULD
USE A HAND ON IT.

WE WERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE OFF AN
HOUR AGO.
BEEN ON
SINCE SIX
LAST NIGHT.

I KNOW.
THE OVER-
TIME'S
ALREADY
APPROVED.



AWW
FUCK...

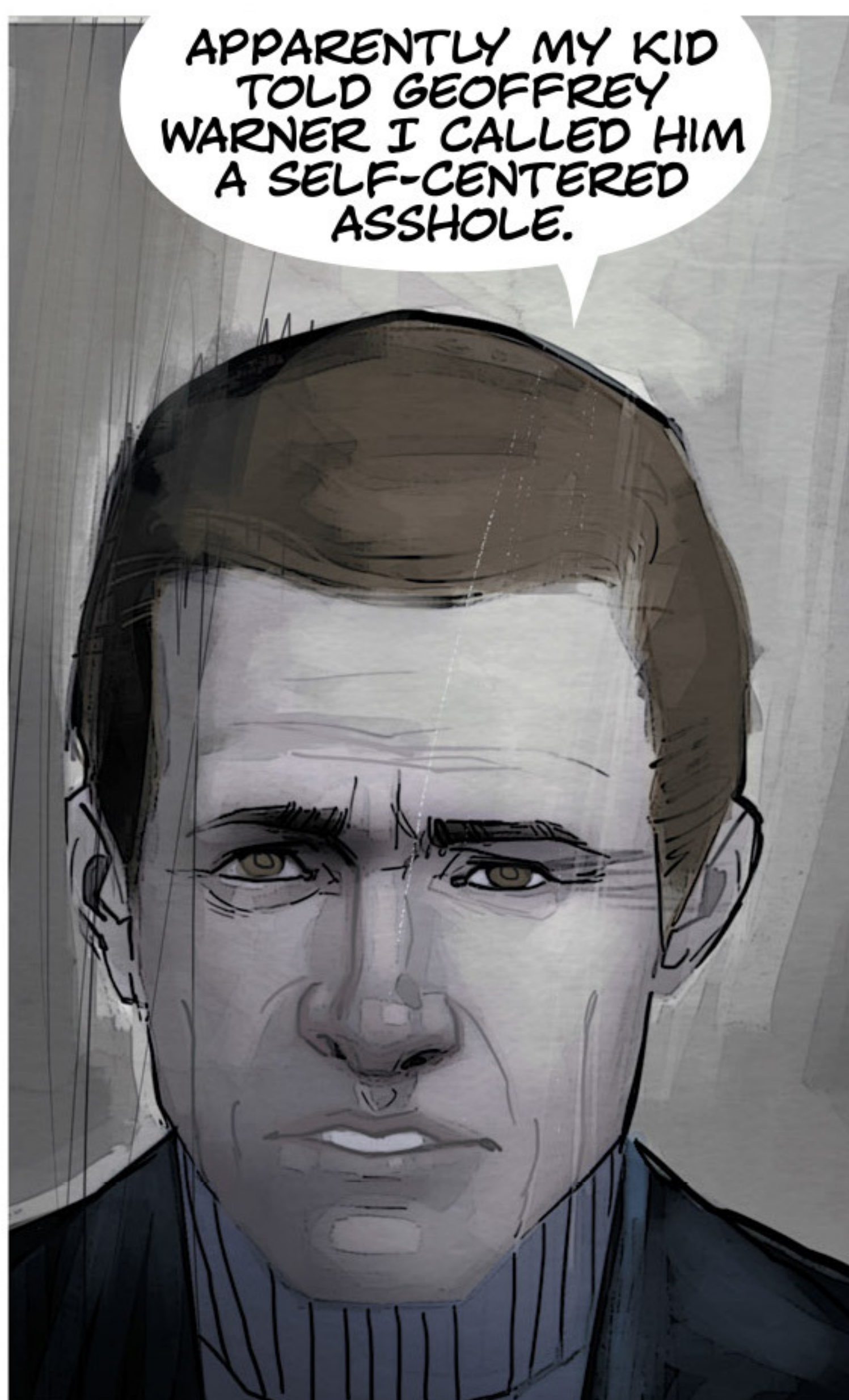
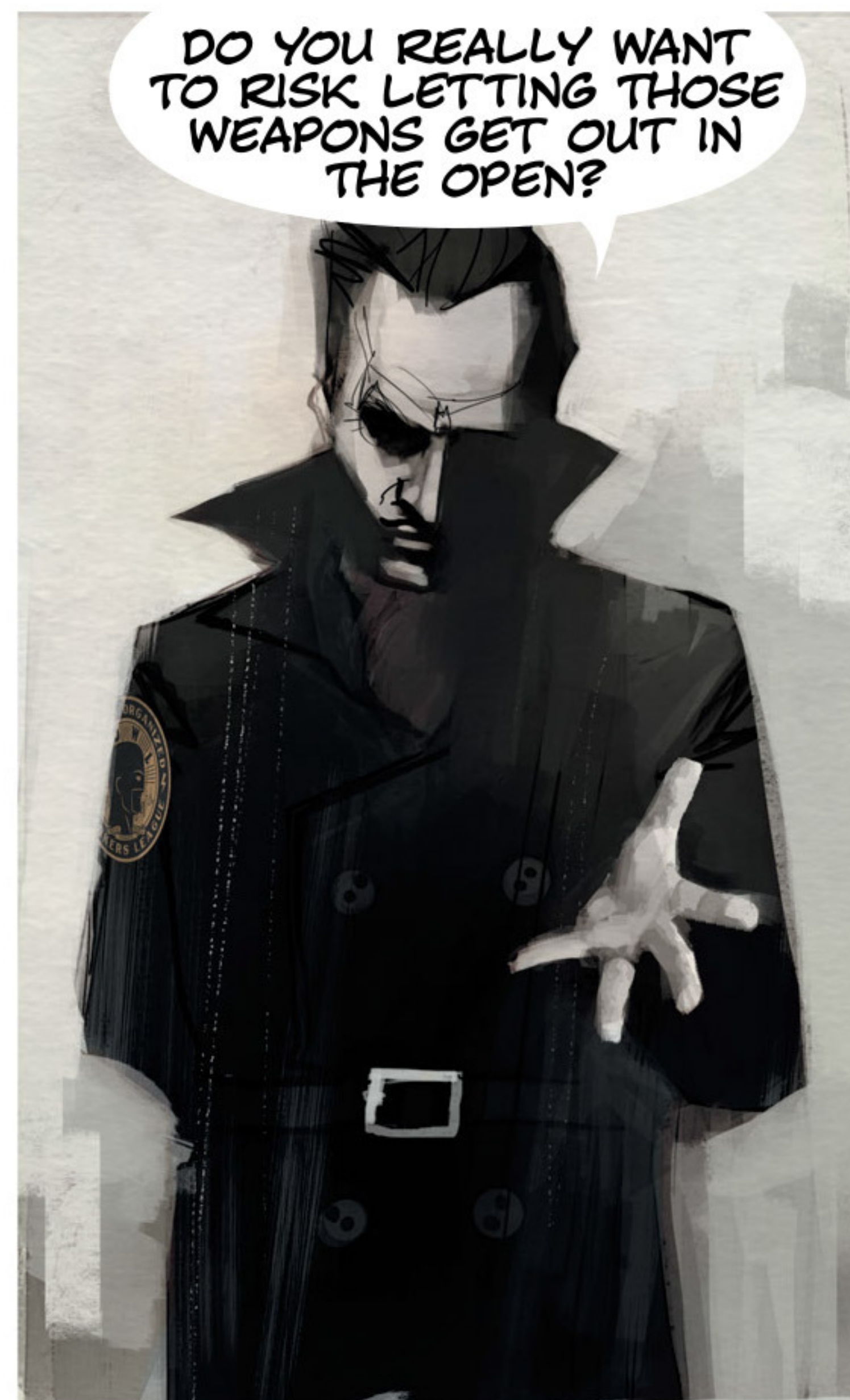
ALL
RIGHT,
WHAT DO
YOU
GOT?

A CPD
REPORT FROM
TWO WEEKS AGO,
ABOUT A FUEL
SMELL INSIDE A
BUILDING ON
OGDEN.



OKAY...

IT MAY
HAVE BEEN
SKYLANCER.





THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

OF COURSE IT IS.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A MICRO-MANAGER. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE NOW--

-- THE ONLY DIFFERENCE NOW, IS YOU GET TO DO IT WITHOUT HAVING TO TAKE THE RISK YOURSELF. GREAT DEAL IF YOU CAN GET IT.



YOU WERE OUT OF POSITION. UP TOO CLOSE. YOU MADE IT EASY FOR SKYLANCER TO FLANK YOU.

YOU'RE JUST LUCKY KATHRYN WAS ABLE TO GET IN FRONT OF HIM.

HOW WOULD I HAVE HANDLED IT? NOT LIKE *THAT*. WHEN I WAS--



YOU KNOW WHAT? YOUR WHOLE LIVING LEGEND SHTICK MAY WORK ON THESE TWO, BUT I'M SICK OF IT.

TOM.



OUTSIDE. RIGHT NOW.

I THINK I'LL JOIN.

NO, I NEED A SECOND FIRST.



WOW. A WHOLE SECOND. IS THAT ALL IT TAKES?



HE ONLY
TALKS LIKE THAT
BECAUSE HE'S
THREATENED
BY YOU.

OR
BECAUSE
YOU TALK TO
ME LIKE WE'RE
SLEEPING
TOGETHER.



PUBLIC
RELATIONS
WANTS TO SETUP
A PHOTO SHOOT
AND INTERVIEW
WITH BOMBSHELL
MAGAZINE.



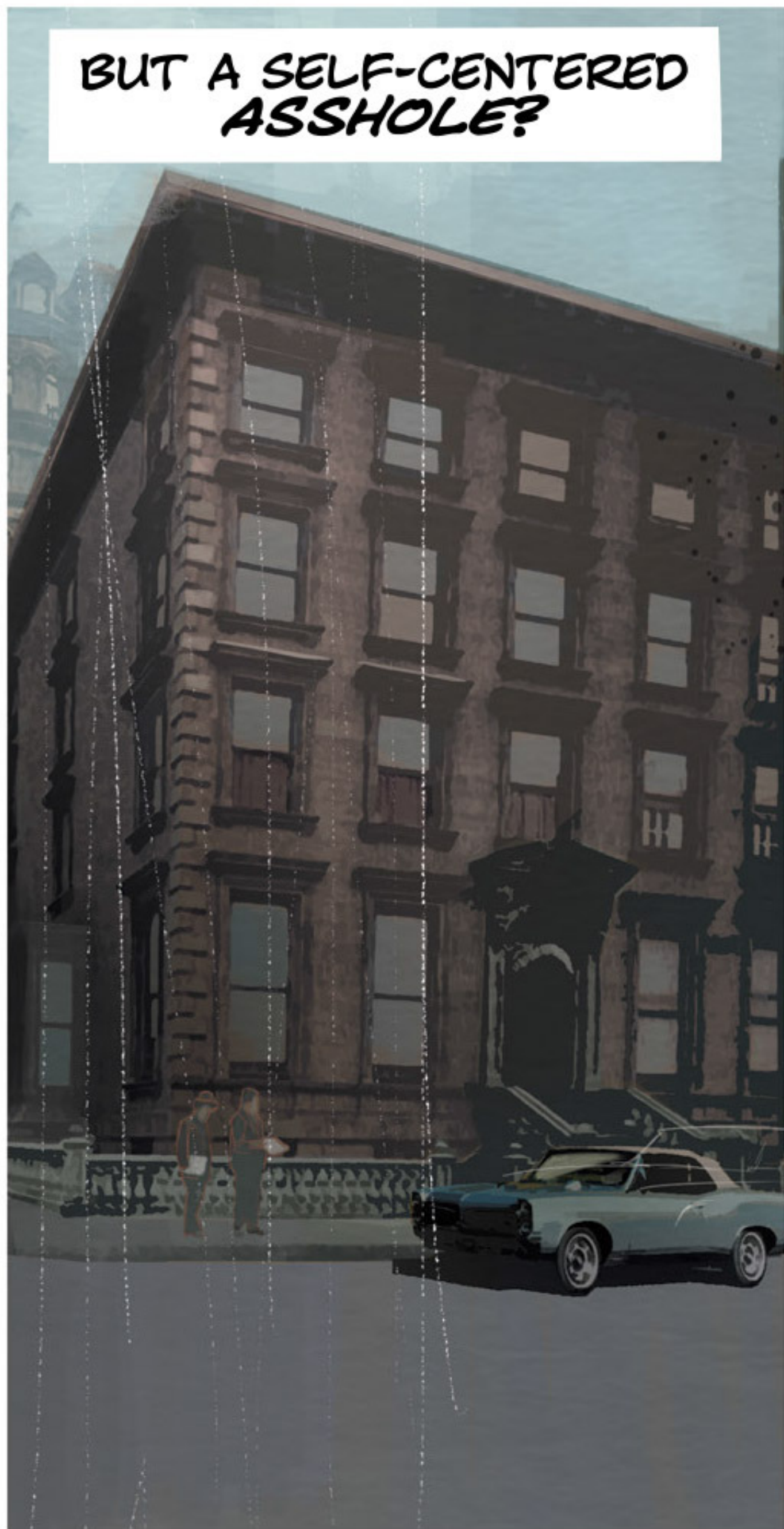
TO GO
OVER THE
NEW RADIA
COSTUME
FOR--

YEAH.
OKAY.



I'LL SEND
THE TALKING
POINTS TO
YOUR GIRL.





BUT A SELF-CENTERED
ASSHOLE?



I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
CALLING HIM
THAT.

CHRIST, IT'S
BEEN THREE
HOURS.
LET IT
GO.



SCREW YOU, KARL.
YOU'RE NOT THE
ONE WHO'S GONNA
GET REAMED.



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT
THE ODDS ARE THAT **THE**
GREY RAVEN WOULD EVEN
REMEMBER YOU HAVE
A KID, MUCH LESS
RECOGNIZE HIM?

YOU KNOW
HOW MANY
PEOPLE HE
MEETS?



SHOULDN'T
JACK HAVE
BEEN IN
SCHOOL?

YEAH.
WELL.
THAT'S A
WHOLE
OTHER
FIGHT.



HE TURNED
TWELVE ABOUT
SIX MONTHS AGO
AND IT'S LIKE A
SWITCH WENT
OFF. HE'S A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
KID.

I MEAN,
I LOVE HIM...
AND I FEEL
BAD SAYING
THIS...



...BUT I
LIKED HIM
BETTER
BEFORE.



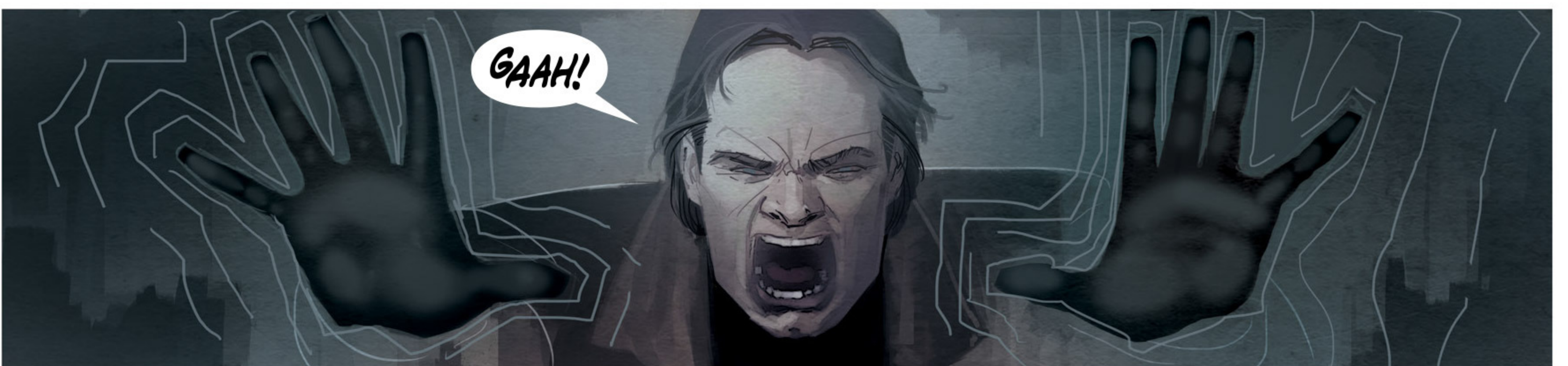
I JUST WANNA
ADD, THIS SHIT
RIGHT HERE IS
WHY I PULL
OUT.

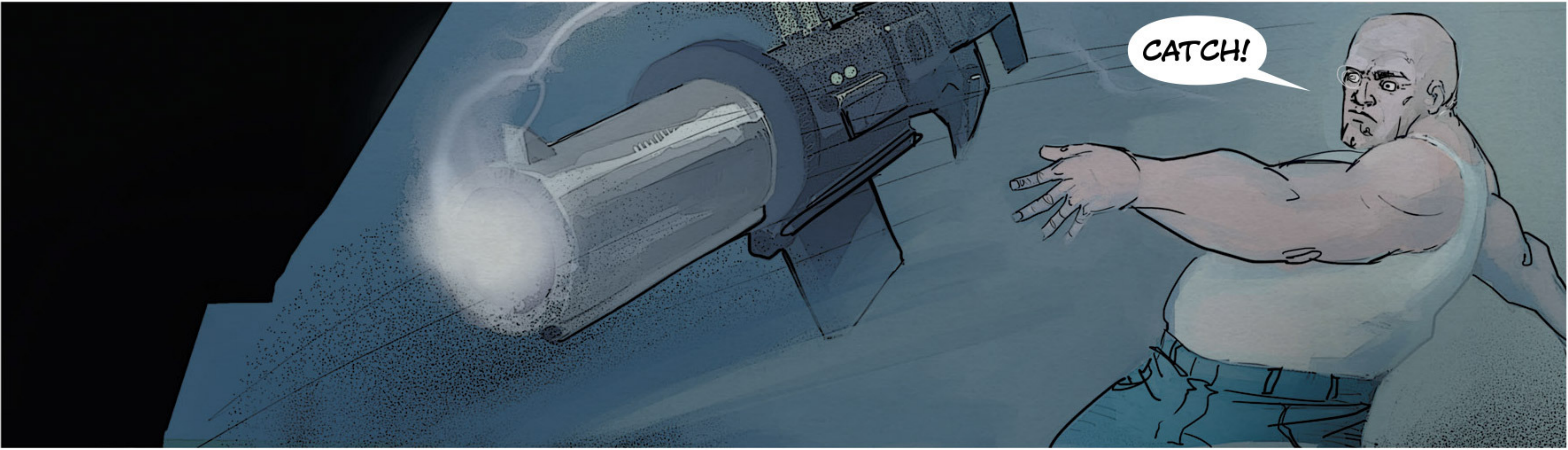
RIGHT.
'CAUSE YOU'VE
GOT **ALL**
THOSE WOMEN
THROWING
THEMSELVES
AT YOUR FAT
ASS...

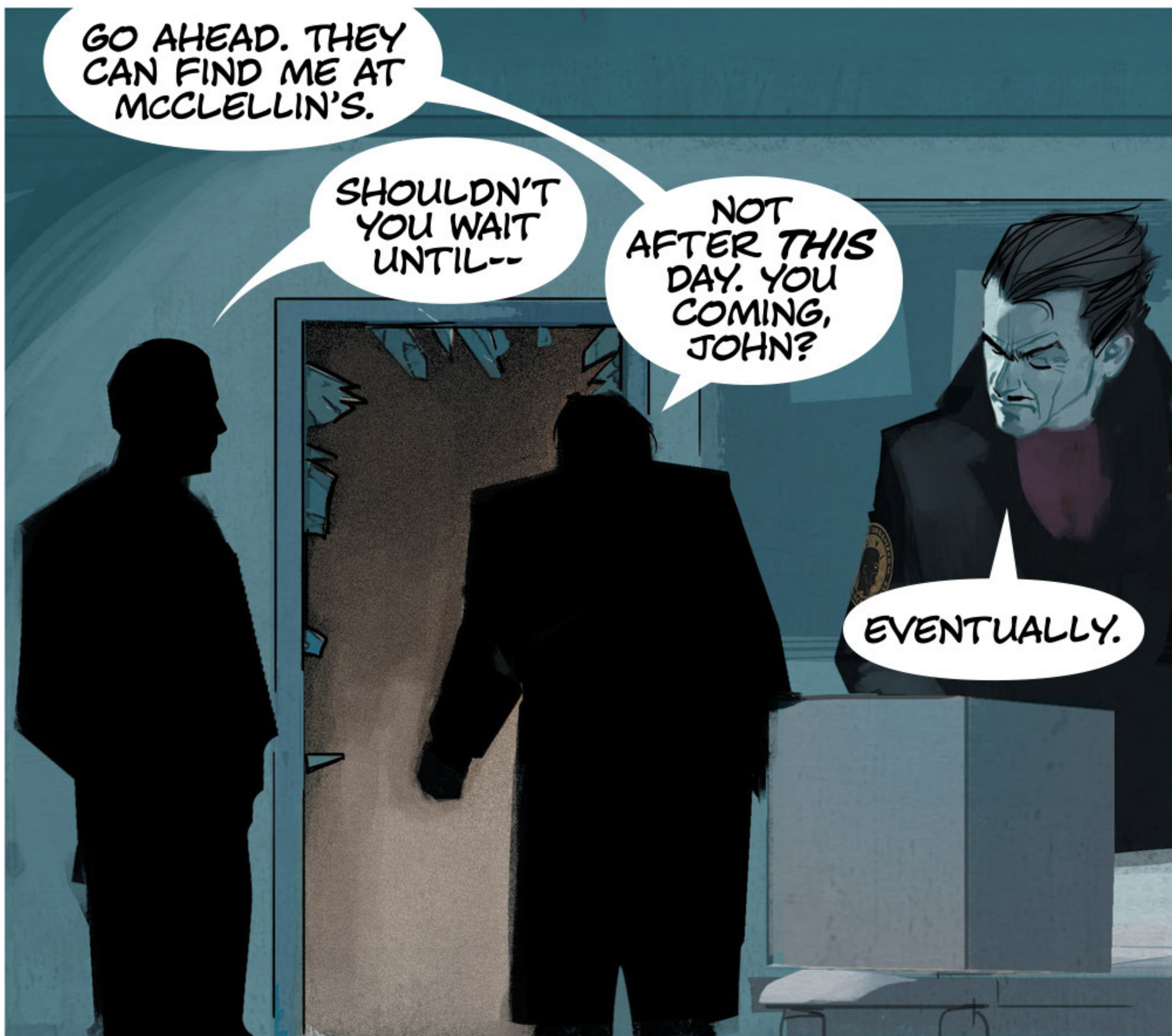
SHH.
DO YOU
HEAR--



VRRAAAA









BUT BY THAT POINT, HE'D ALREADY PULLED TWO PIECES AND STARTED RAPID FIRING. DAMN NEAR TOOK THE WALLS APART.

SO WE SCATTER, ABOUT TO PULL BACK, BUT *I'M* THINKING JOHN'S GOT AT *LEAST* A CONCUSSION AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING THIS PRICK MAKE JOHN AND GRANT'S WIVES WIDOWS.

SO I DOUBLE BACK, DUCK A HUGE BLAST, *LEAP* ACROSS THE CARPET--



--AND BOOM!

HIT HIM WITH THE ANTI-KINETICS. JUST AS HE'S ABOUT TO BLOW JOHN'S HEAD OFF.

WOW...

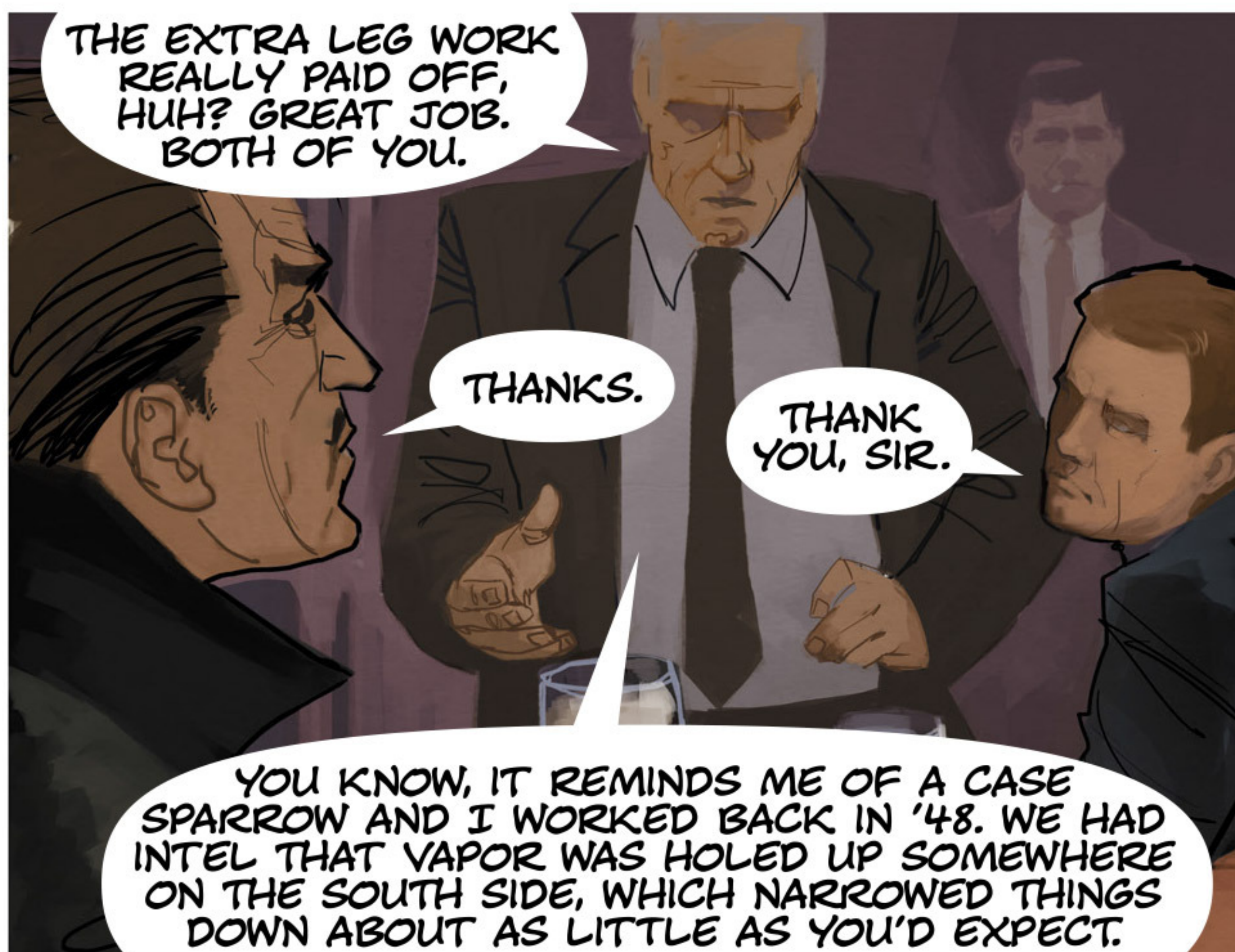
HE CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO EMBELLISH.

YEAH. THAT'S KARL FOR--



SHIT...

I JUST HEARD ABOUT THE SAFEHOUSE.

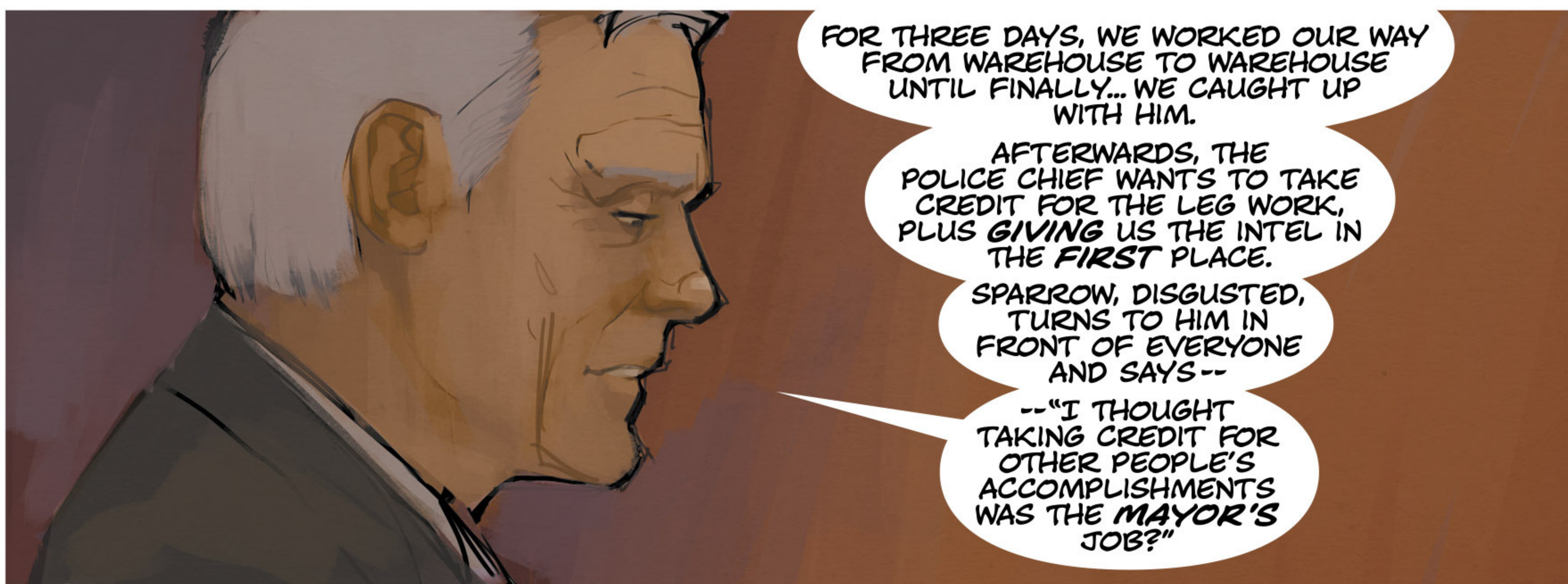


THE EXTRA LEG WORK REALLY PAID OFF, HUH? GREAT JOB. BOTH OF YOU.

THANKS.

THANK YOU, SIR.

YOU KNOW, IT REMINDS ME OF A CASE SPARROW AND I WORKED BACK IN '48. WE HAD INTEL THAT VAPOR WAS HOLED UP SOMEWHERE ON THE SOUTH SIDE, WHICH NARROWED THINGS DOWN ABOUT AS LITTLE AS YOU'D EXPECT.



FOR THREE DAYS, WE WORKED OUR WAY FROM WAREHOUSE TO WAREHOUSE UNTIL FINALLY... WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.

AFTERWARDS, THE POLICE CHIEF WANTS TO TAKE CREDIT FOR THE LEG WORK, PLUS *GIVING* US THE INTEL IN THE *FIRST* PLACE.

SPARROW, DISGUSTED, TURNS TO HIM IN FRONT OF EVERYONE AND SAYS--

--"I THOUGHT TAKING CREDIT FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WAS THE *MAYOR'S* JOB?"



THE THINGS KIDS SAY, HUH?



Y-YEAH... KIDS...



AND WAS THIS CASE BEFORE THE FIRST CONTRACT? OR AFTER?

VAPOR WAS THE BEGINNING. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT GAVE US LEVERAGE TO START C.O.W.L.

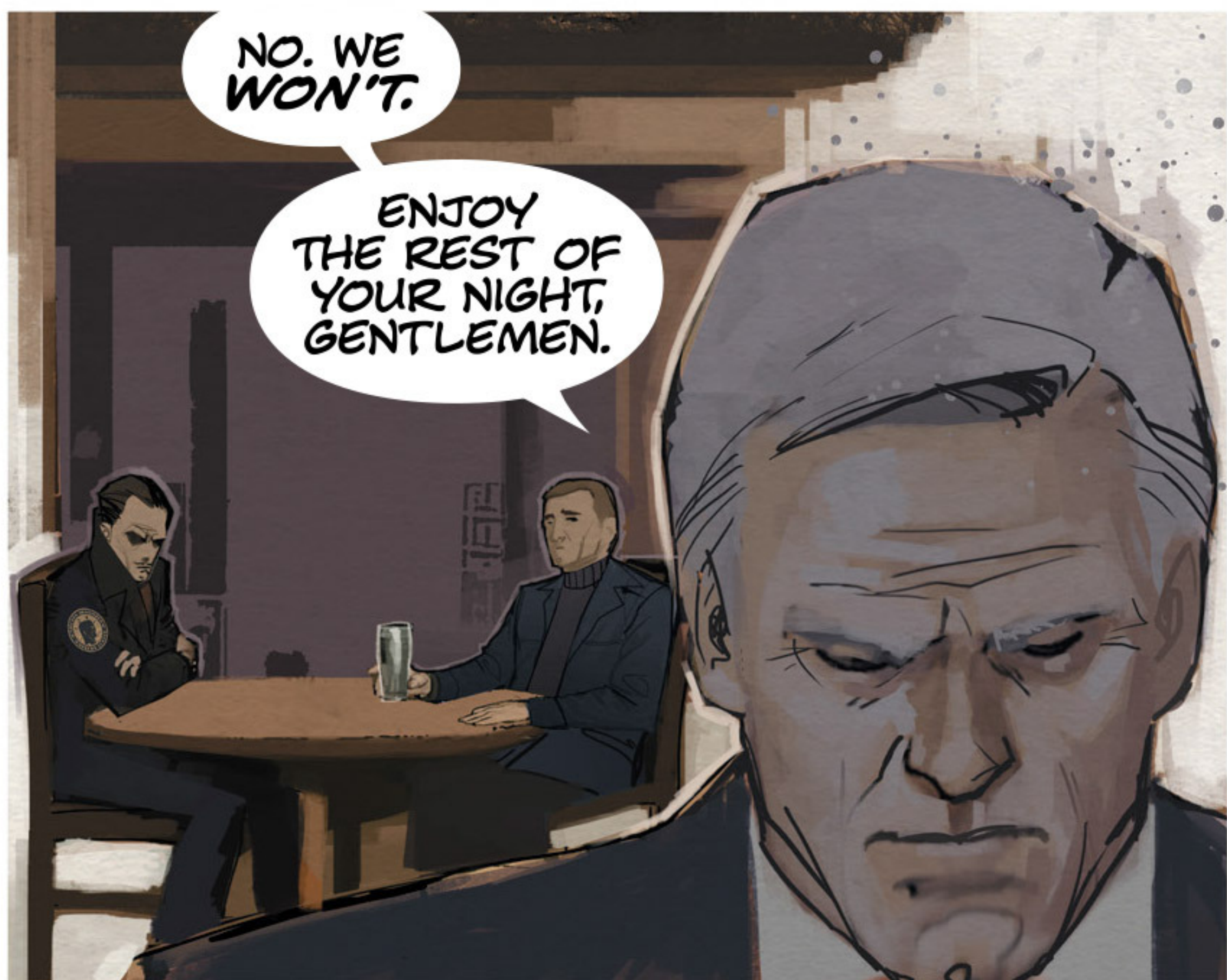
THEN I GUESS WE SHOULD THANK HIM.



OTHERWISE WE MIGHT STILL BE HELPING PEOPLE FOR FREE. OR AT LEAST, SOME OF US WOULD.

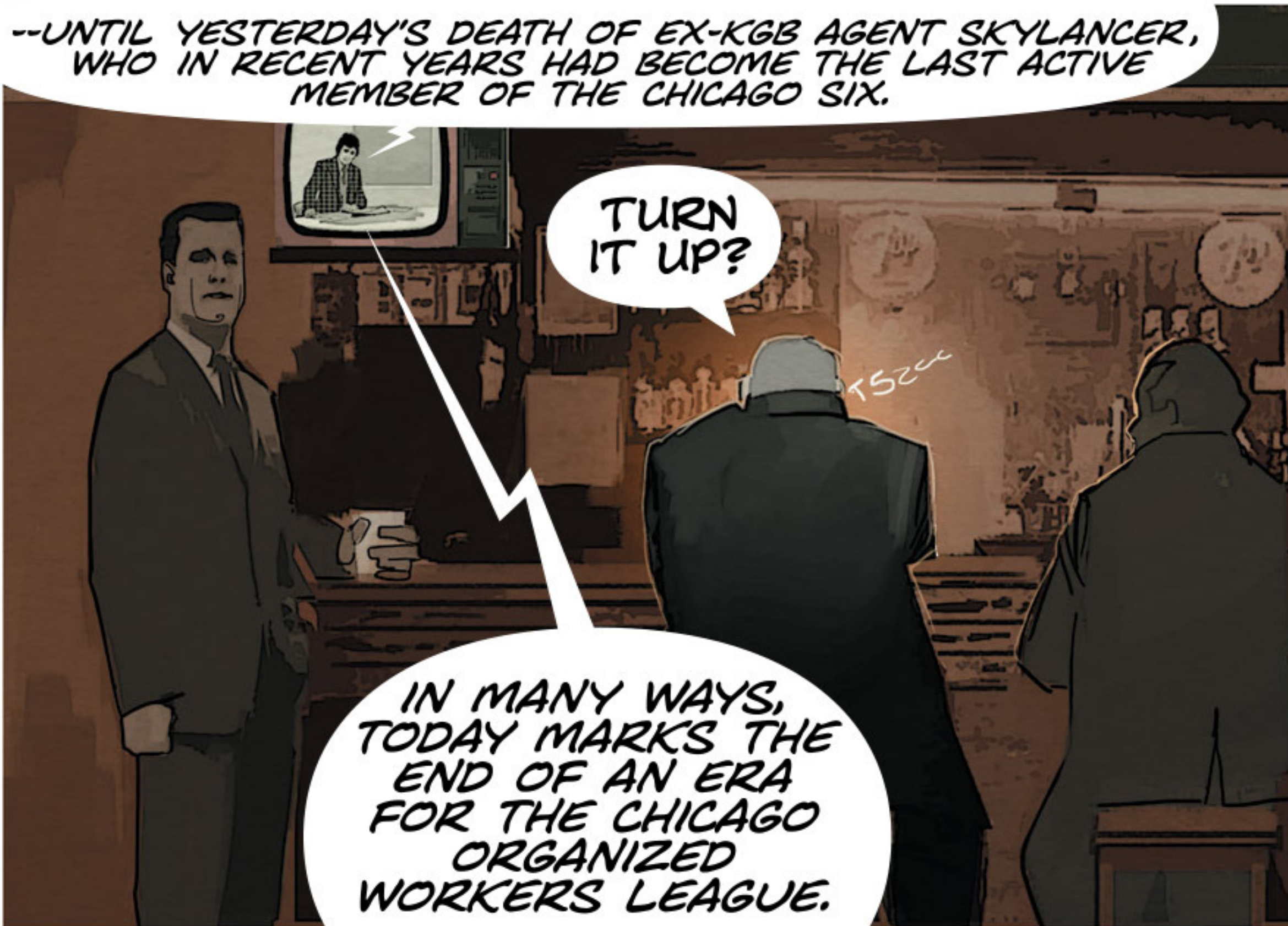
AND I GUARANTEE THOSE PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE NEARLY AS SUCCESSFUL.

I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW.



NO. WE WON'T.

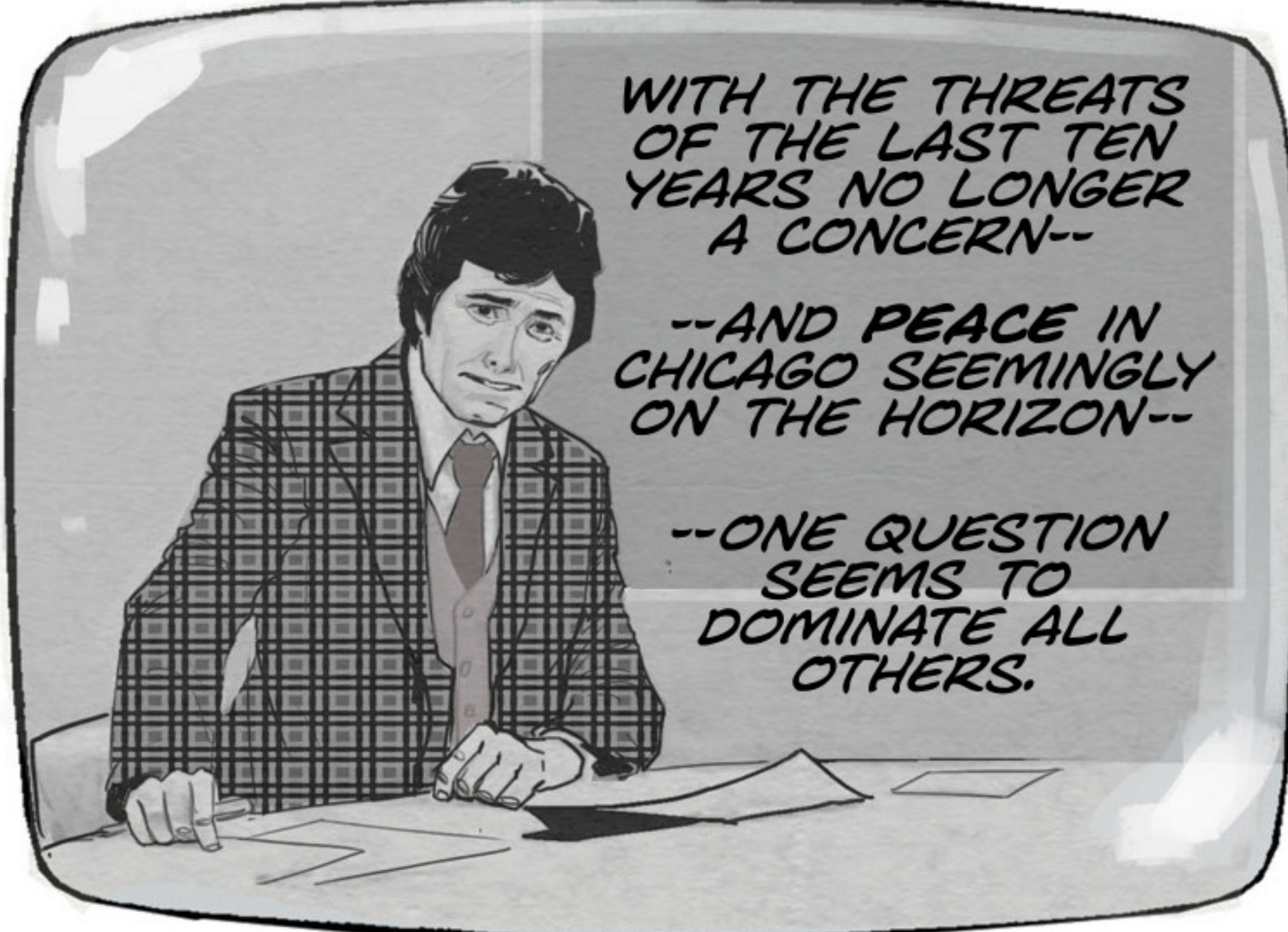
ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR NIGHT, GENTLEMEN.



--UNTIL YESTERDAY'S DEATH OF EX-KGB AGENT SKYLANCER, WHO IN RECENT YEARS HAD BECOME THE LAST ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE CHICAGO SIX.

TURN IT UP?

IN MANY WAYS, TODAY MARKS THE END OF AN ERA FOR THE CHICAGO ORGANIZED WORKERS LEAGUE.



WITH THE THREATS OF THE LAST TEN YEARS NO LONGER A CONCERN--

--AND PEACE IN CHICAGO SEEMINGLY ON THE HORIZON--

--ONE QUESTION SEEMS TO DOMINATE ALL OTHERS.



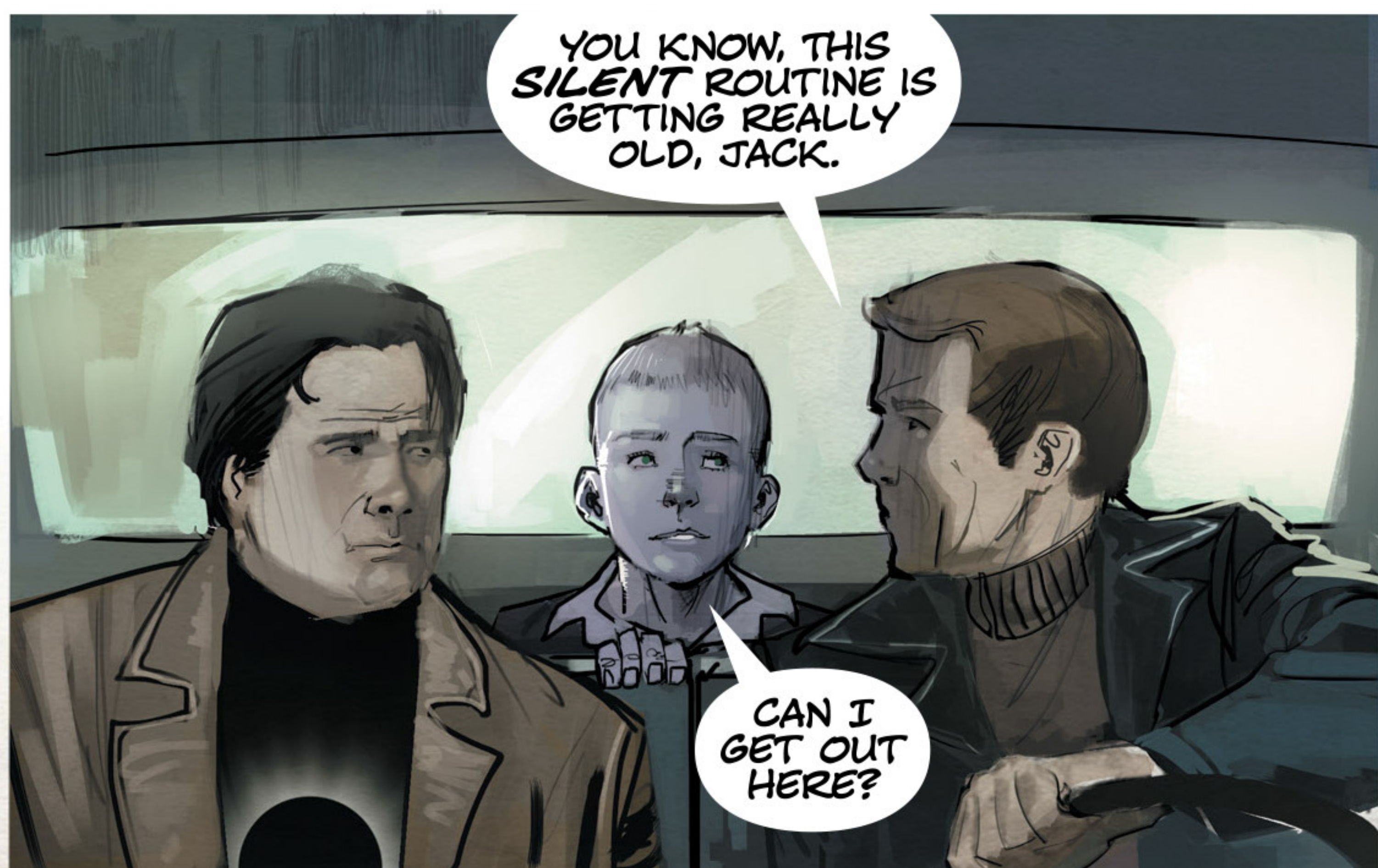
WILL C.O.W.L. BECOME IRRELEVANT?

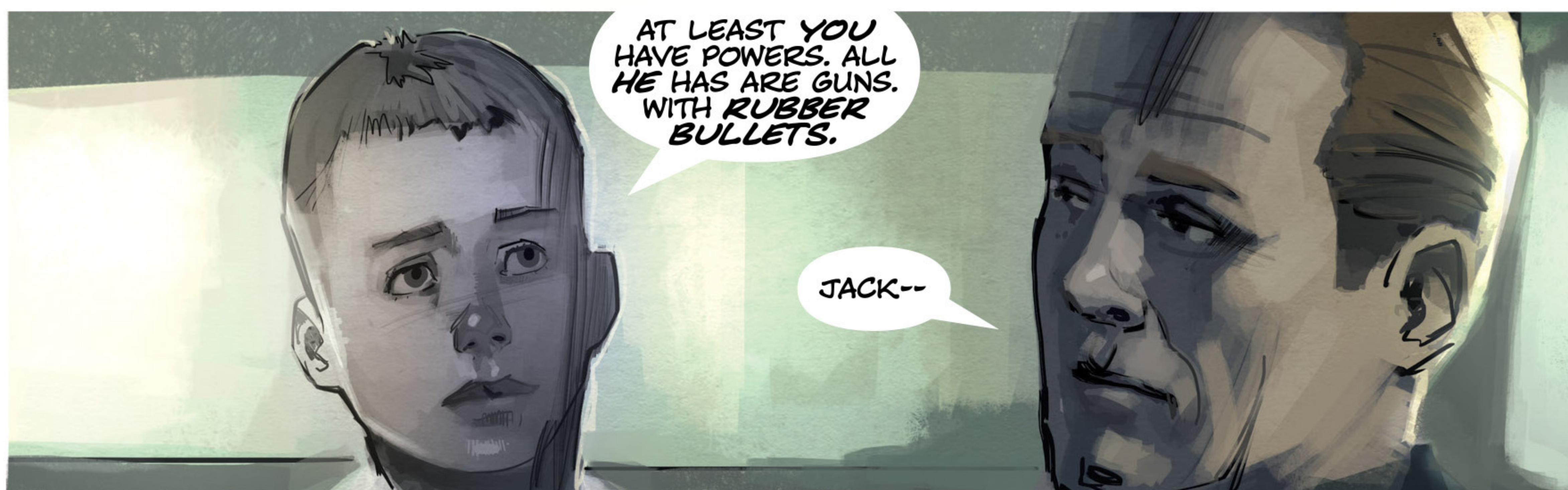


DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH.













CHAPTER 2

S e l f - D e c e p t i o n



THEY CONQUERED
THE SKIES.



THE JUNGLES.



THE BEACHES.

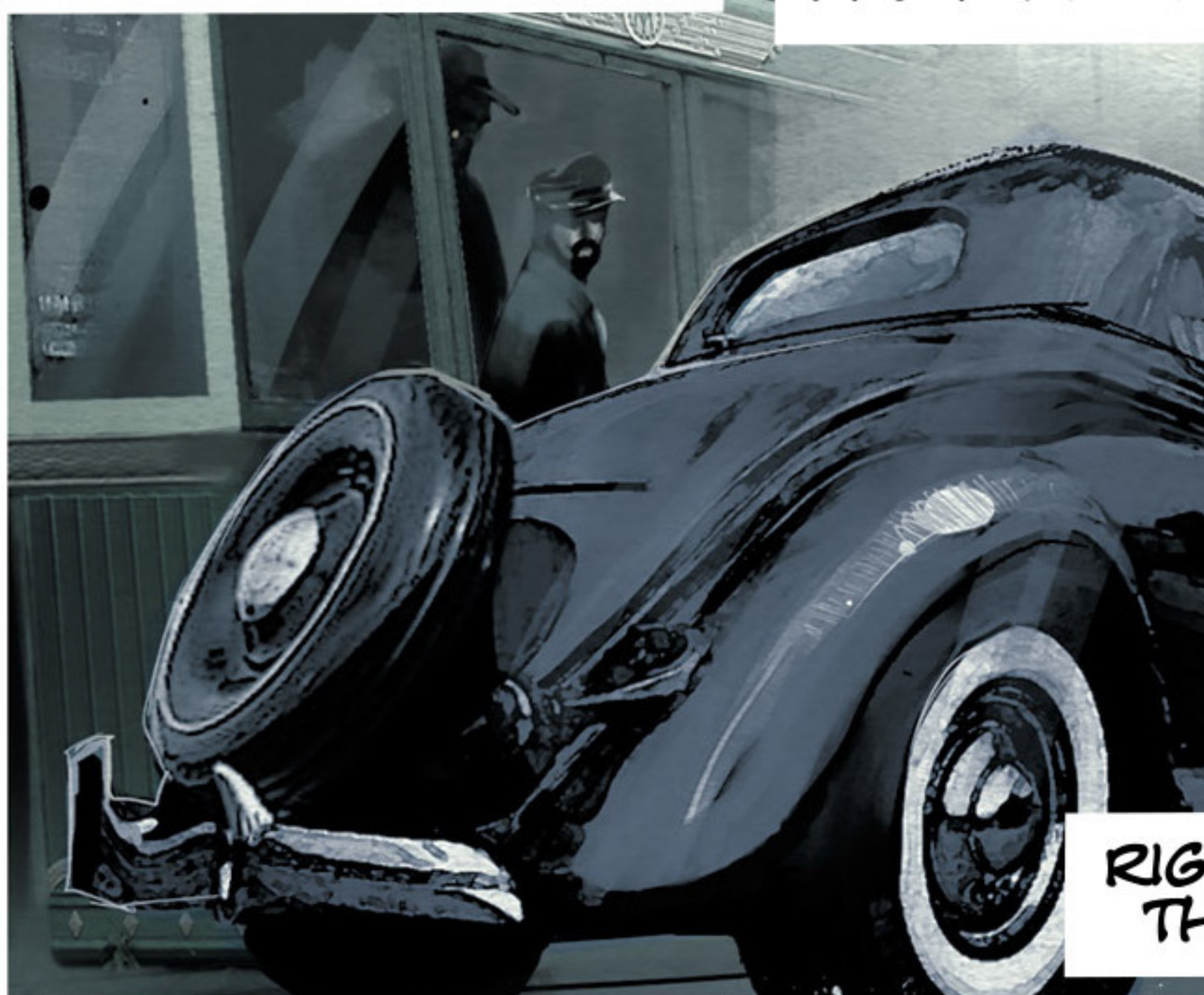


BEFORE THEY WERE
C.O.W.L., THE GREY
RAVEN AND BLAZE
HELPED WIN THE WAR...

...AND LOST
THEIR HOME IN
THE PROCESS.



ORGANIZED CRIME
STRANGLER CHICAGO.



EVERYTHING
HAD A PRICE.



RIGHT DOWN TO
THE BRIDGES.

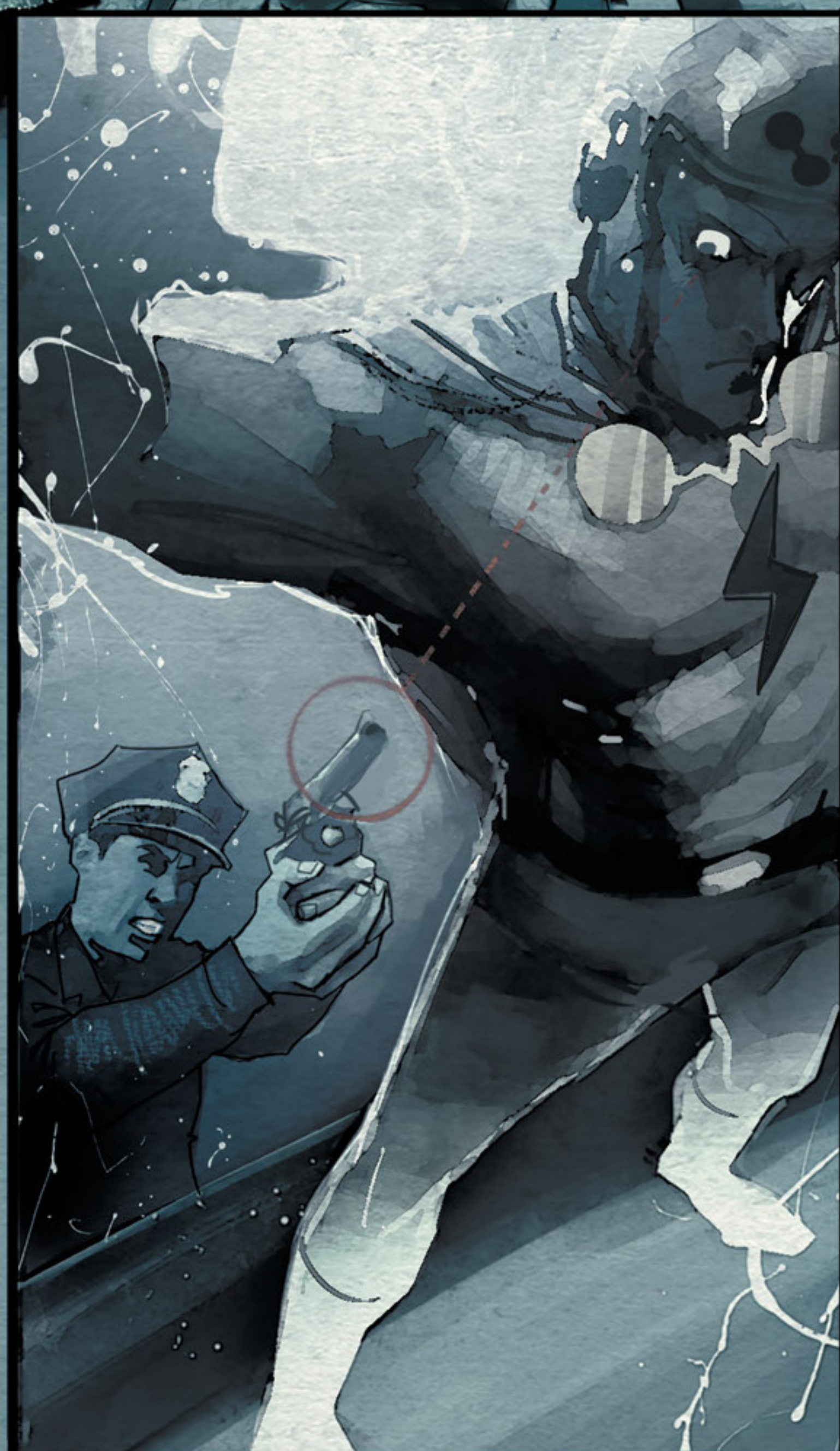
THE MOB LIVED THE HIGH LIFE
WHILE THE CITY RAN DRY.



THE ARRIVAL
OF SUPER
POWERS...



...ONLY MADE
THINGS WORSE.



KALILL

IN 1946, CITY HALL
WAS OUT OF ANSWERS.

THIS WAS NOT
THE FUTURE
ANYONE
PROMISED.

LEAST OF
ALL, THE
HEROES.

WHICH IS
WHY--

--THEY
HAD TO
COME
HOME.

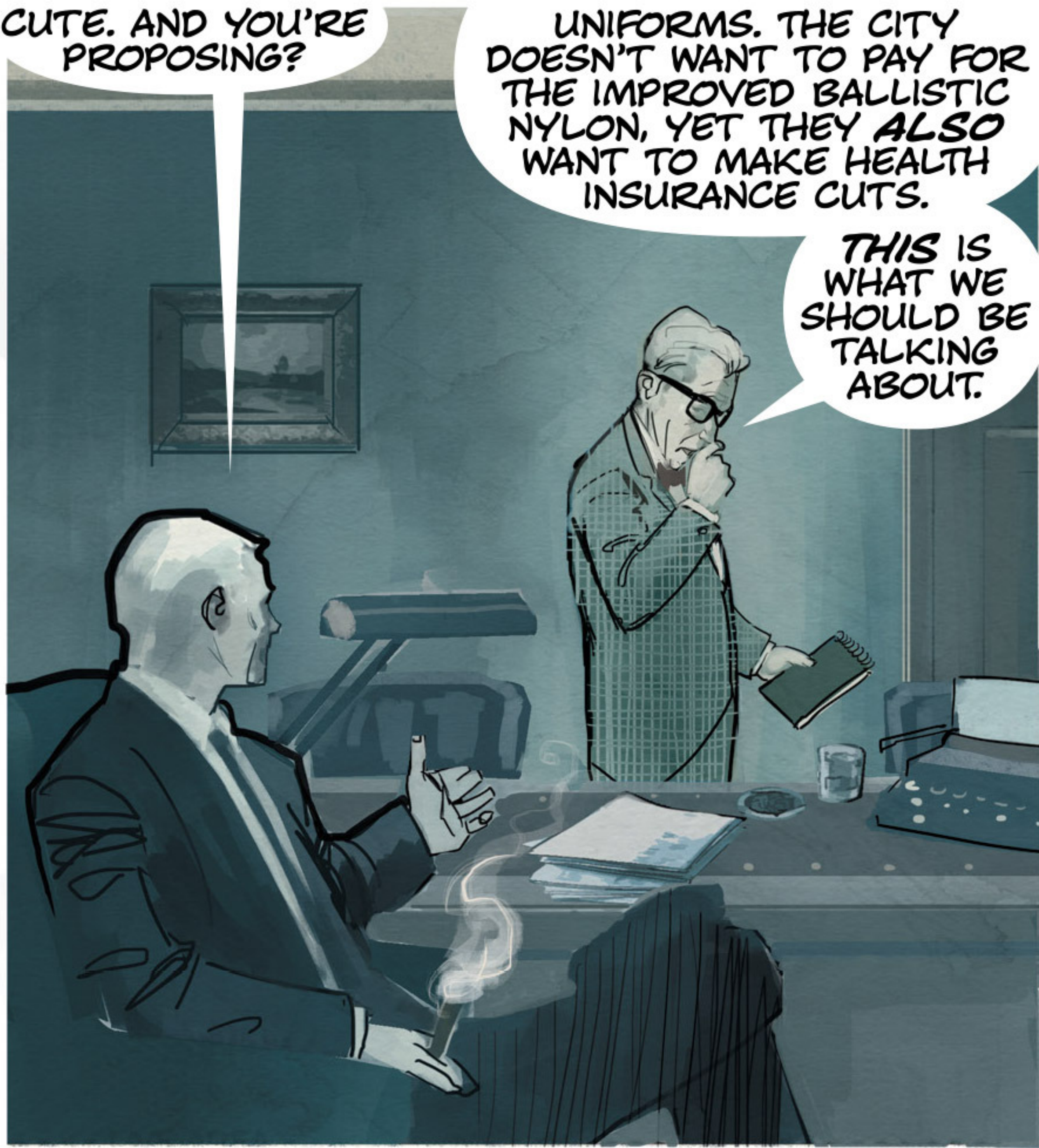
FOR THREE YEARS,
THE GREY RAVEN,
SPARROW, AND
BLAZE FOUGHT
FOR CHICAGO.

LIKE THEY HAD
BEFORE THE WAR.

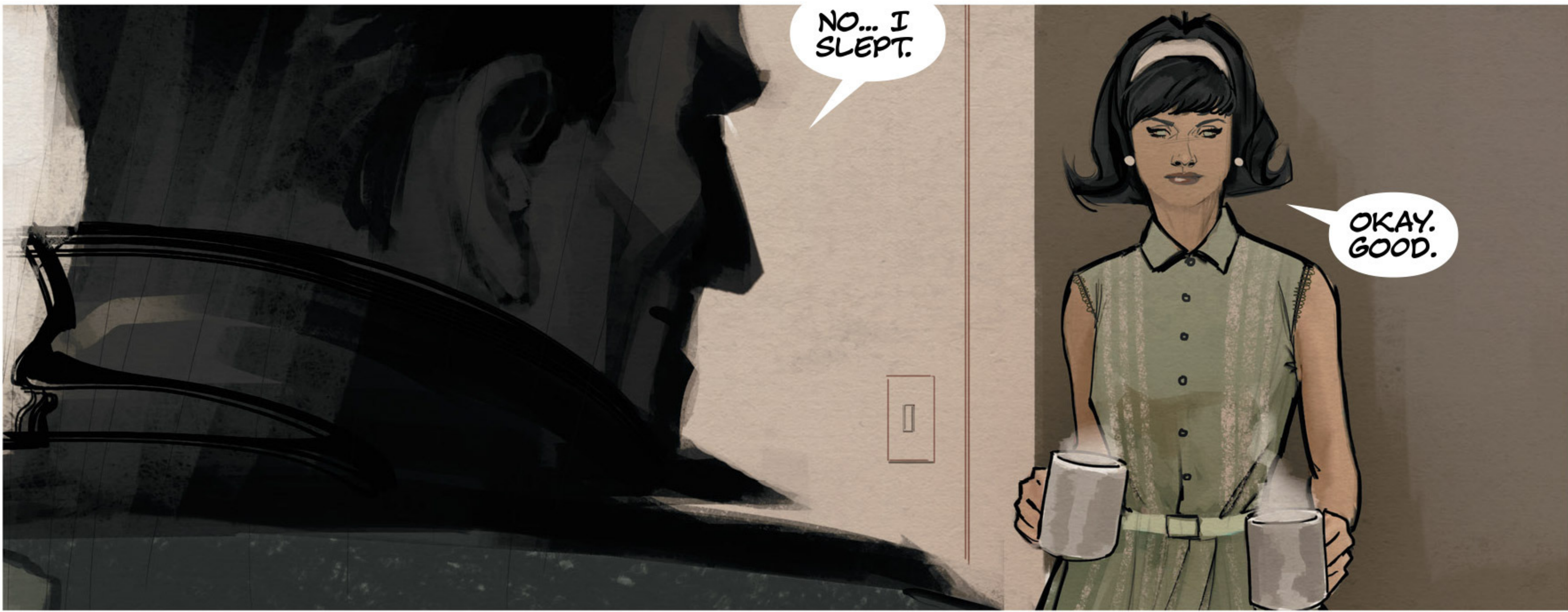
BUT FOR
GEOFFREY
WARNER...

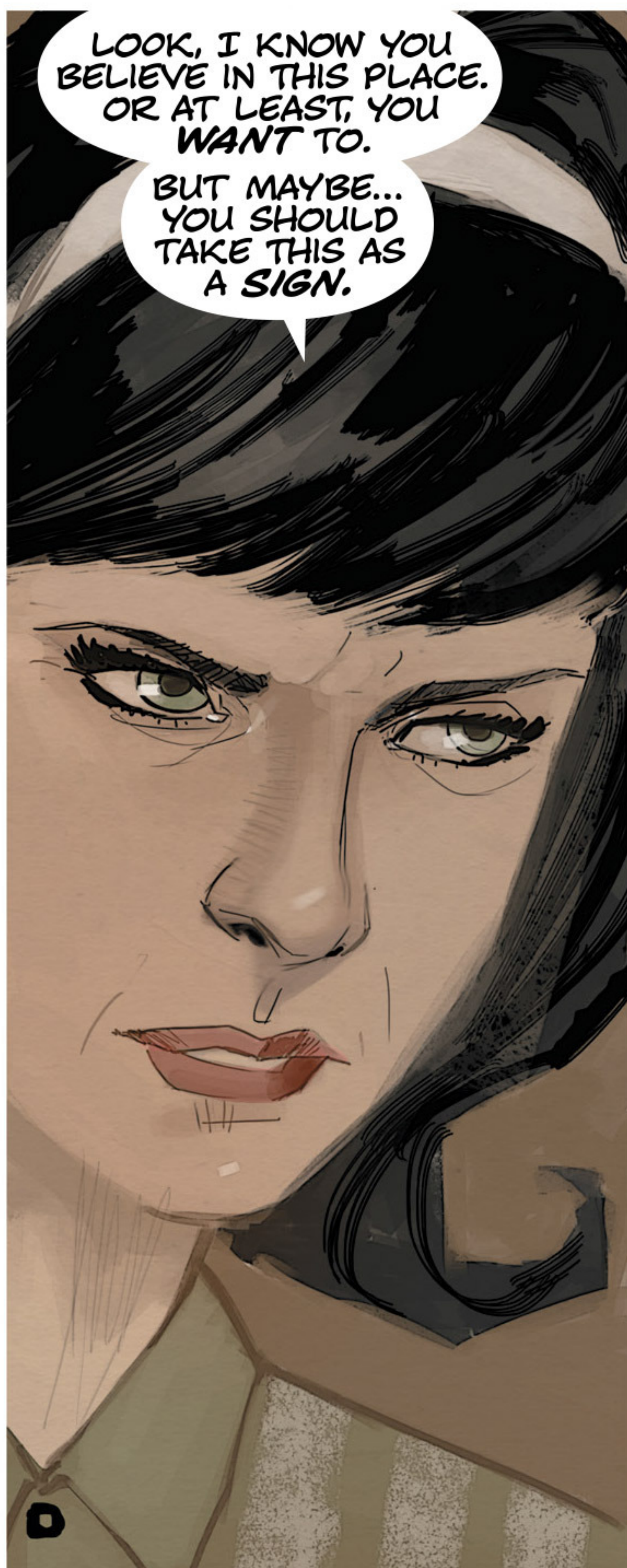


CENTRAL 01 - NEAR NORTH SIDE
C.O.W.L. HEADQUARTERS

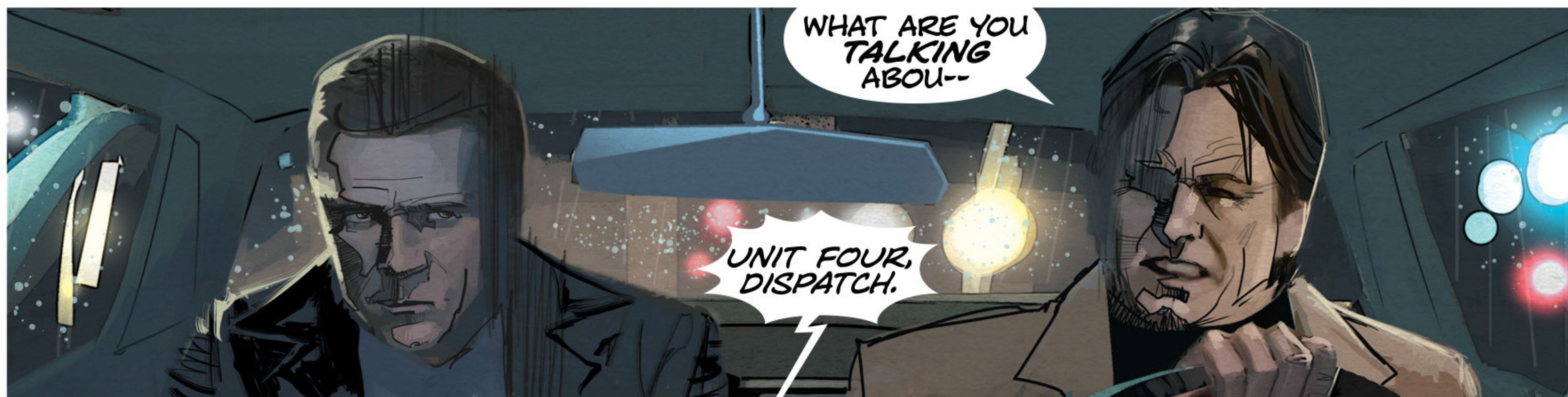






















WHAT'S IT
LIKE TO FLY?

I THINK IT WOULD
BE SO EXCITING.

THE SPARKS LOUNGE

I'M
ARCLIGHT.

IT IS
EXCITING.
THEN
AGAIN...

...I CAN
DO A LOT
OF EXCITING
THINGS.

AND
MOST OF
THEM DON'T
INVOLVE
FLYING.

AW,
DON'T BE
NAUGHTY.

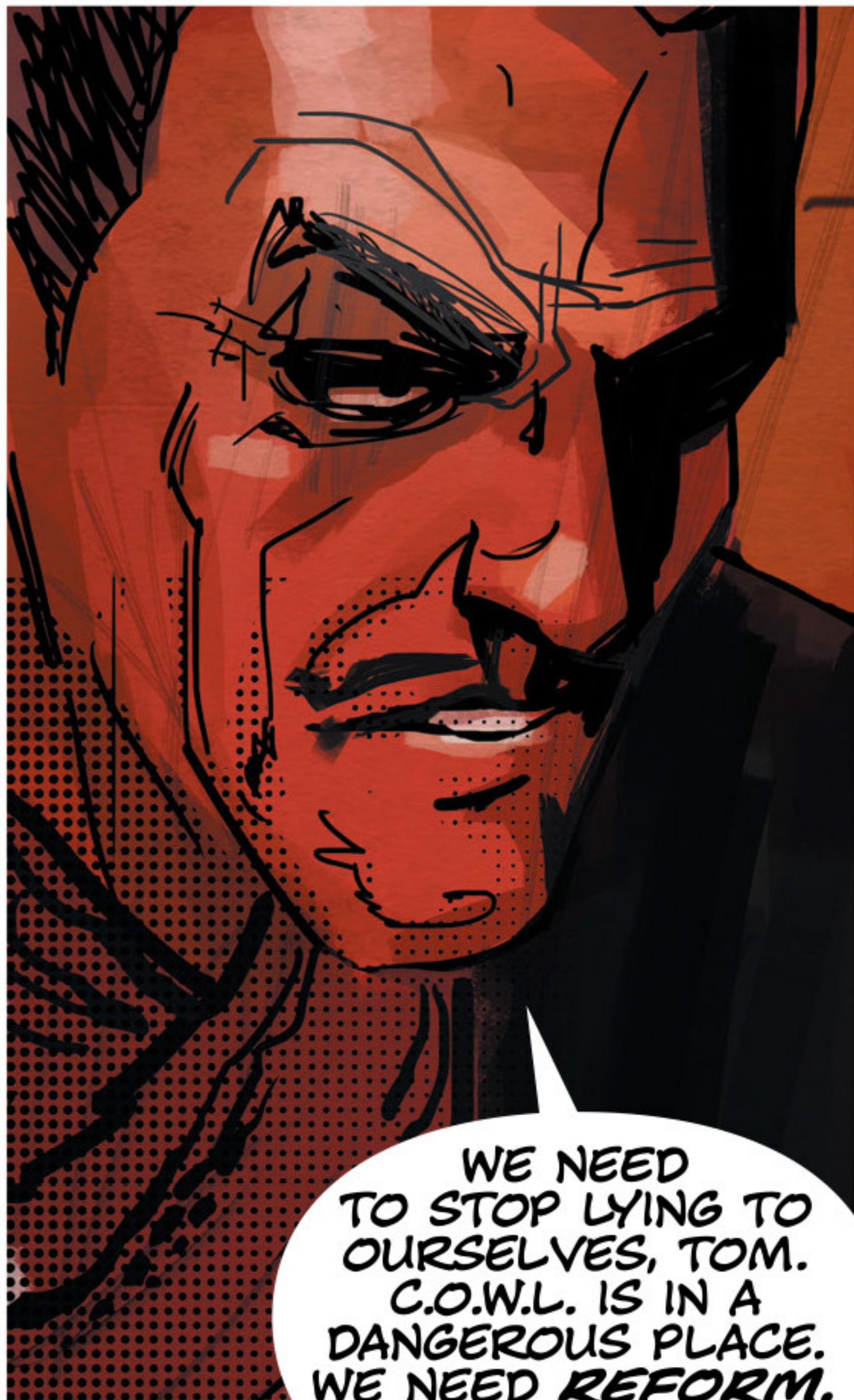
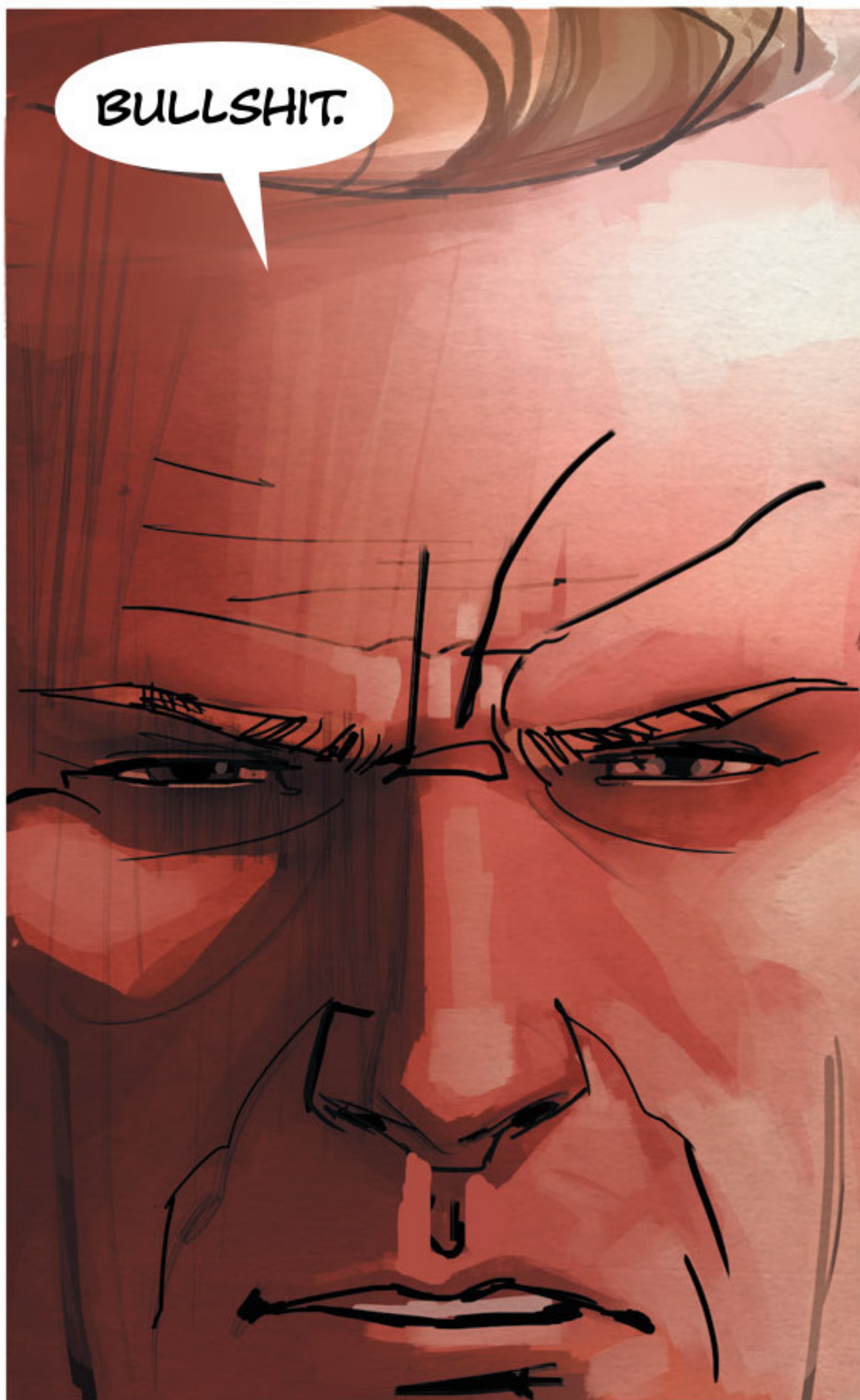
I'M
NOT.

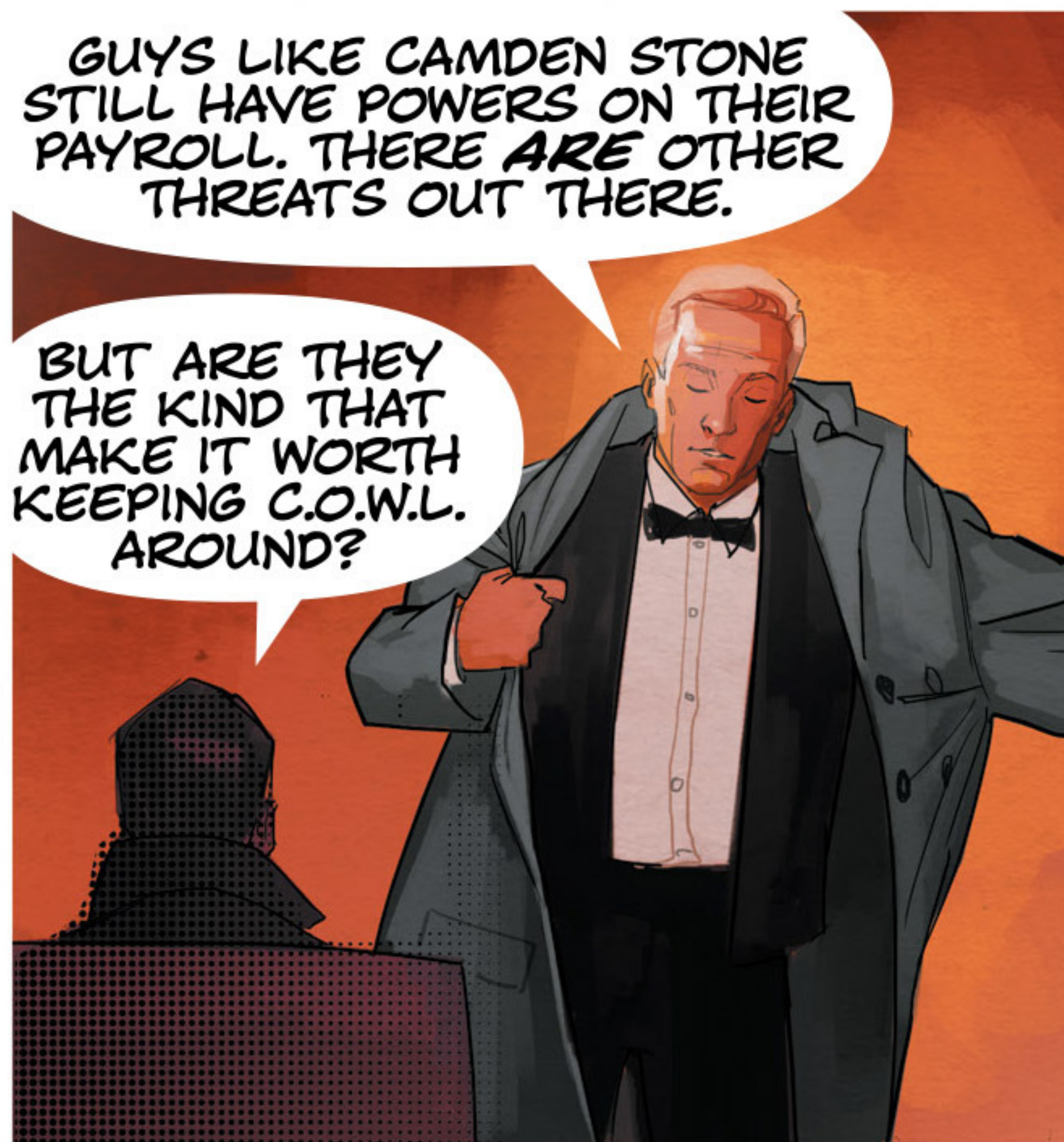
TOM.

HONEY, WHY
DON'T YOU GET
DRESSED AND
WAIT FOR ME AT
THE DOOR.

TSK

THIS WON'T
TAKE LONG. I
PROMISE.



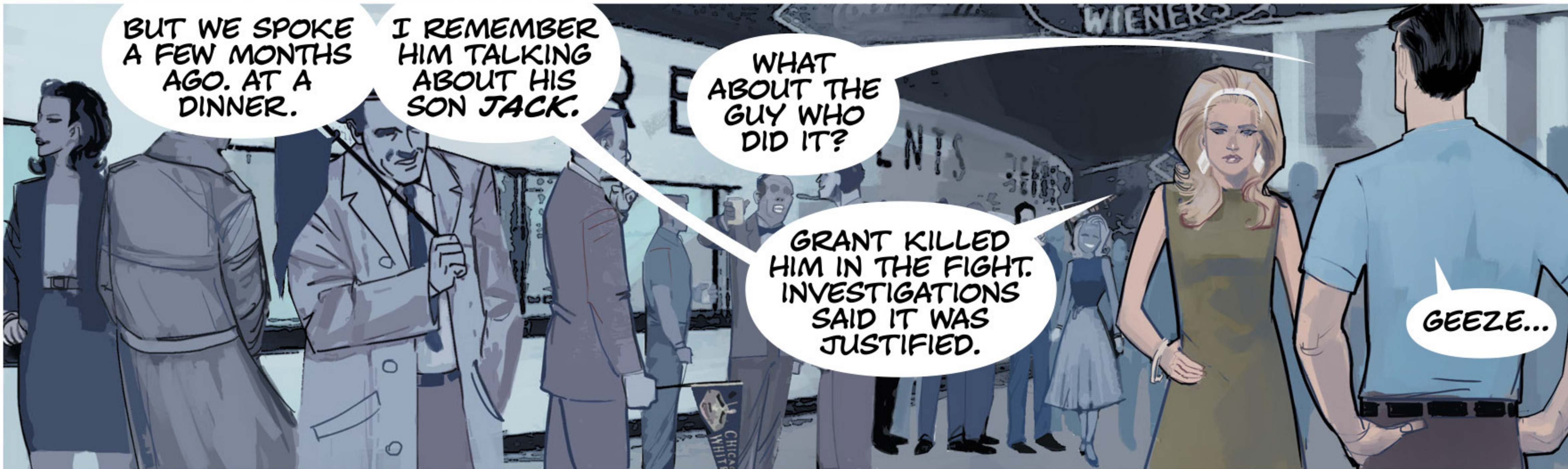








I DON'T KNOW
GRANT THAT WELL.



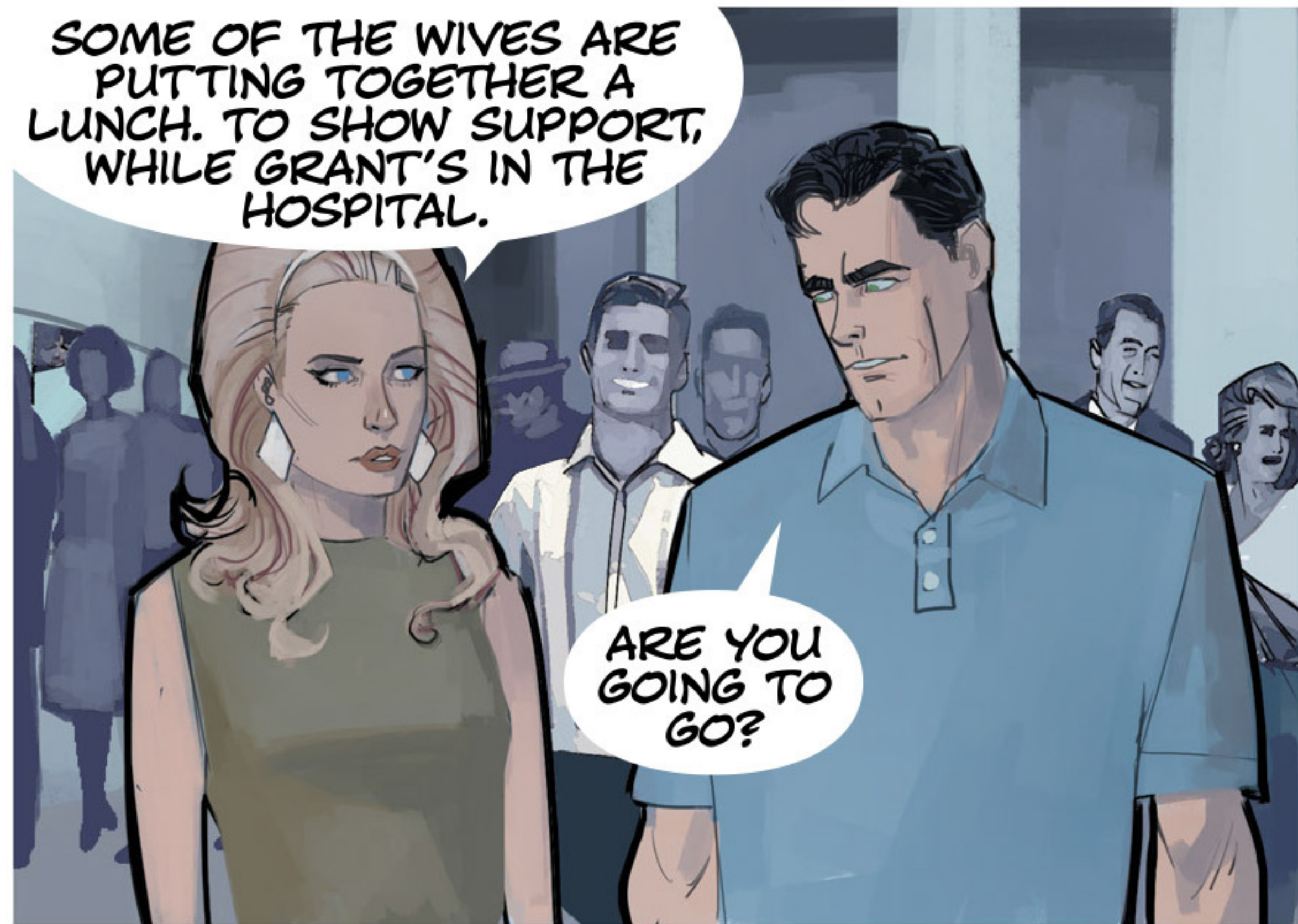
BUT WE SPOKE
A FEW MONTHS
AGO. AT A
DINNER.

I REMEMBER
HIM TALKING
ABOUT HIS
SON JACK.

WHAT
ABOUT THE
GUY WHO
DID IT?

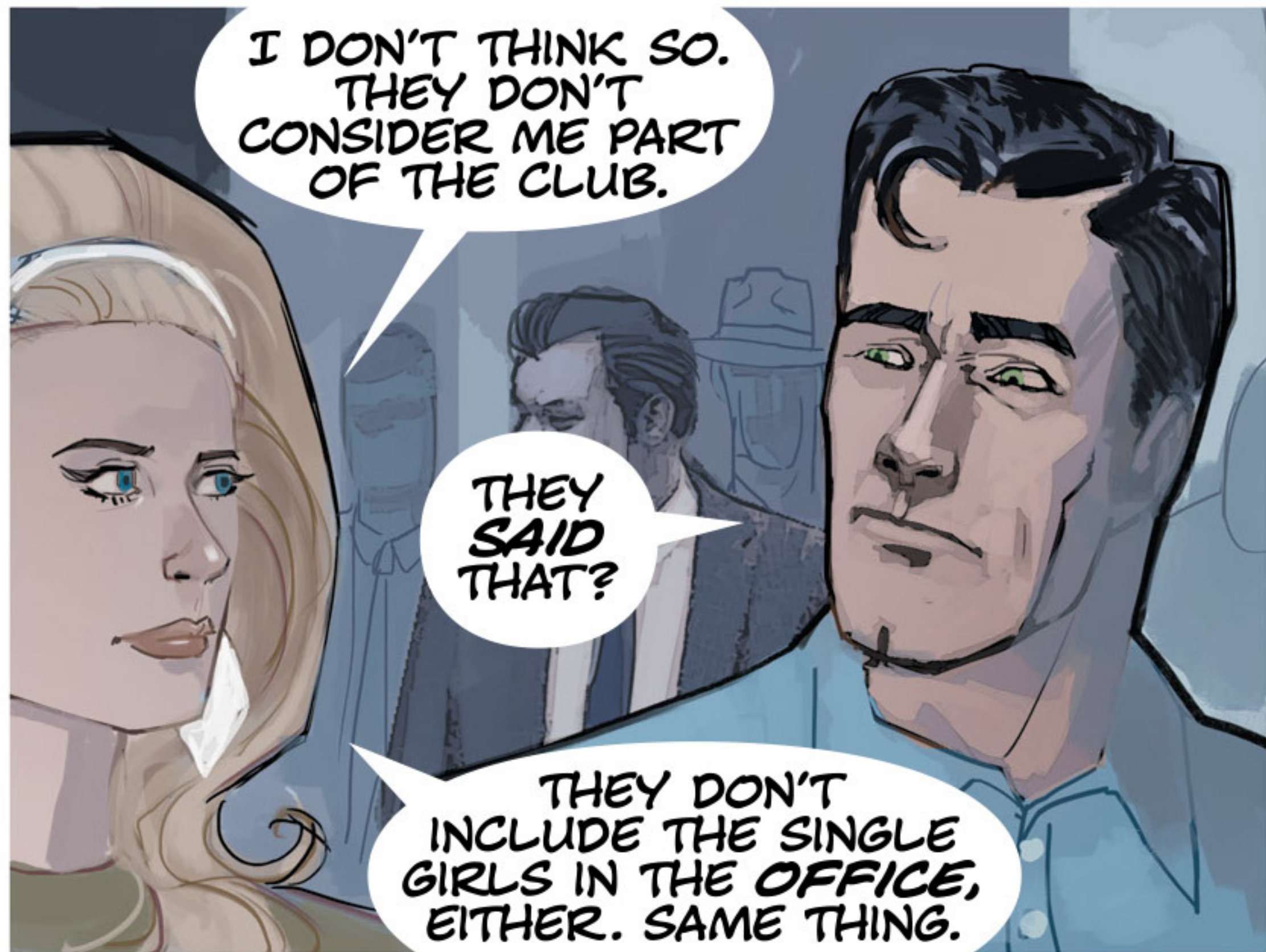
GRANT KILLED
HIM IN THE FIGHT.
INVESTIGATIONS
SAID IT WAS
JUSTIFIED.

GEEZE...



SOME OF THE WIVES ARE
PUTTING TOGETHER A
LUNCH. TO SHOW SUPPORT,
WHILE GRANT'S IN THE
HOSPITAL.

ARE YOU
GOING TO
GO?



I DON'T THINK SO.
THEY DON'T
CONSIDER ME PART
OF THE CLUB.

THEY
SAID
THAT?

THEY DON'T
INCLUDE THE SINGLE
GIRLS IN THE OFFICE,
EITHER. SAME THING.



WELL, YOU
COULD BE
PART OF THE
CLUB.

DAVID...



HEY, YOU'RE
TWENTY-NINE IN
THREE MONTHS.
IF NOT NOW,
WHEN?

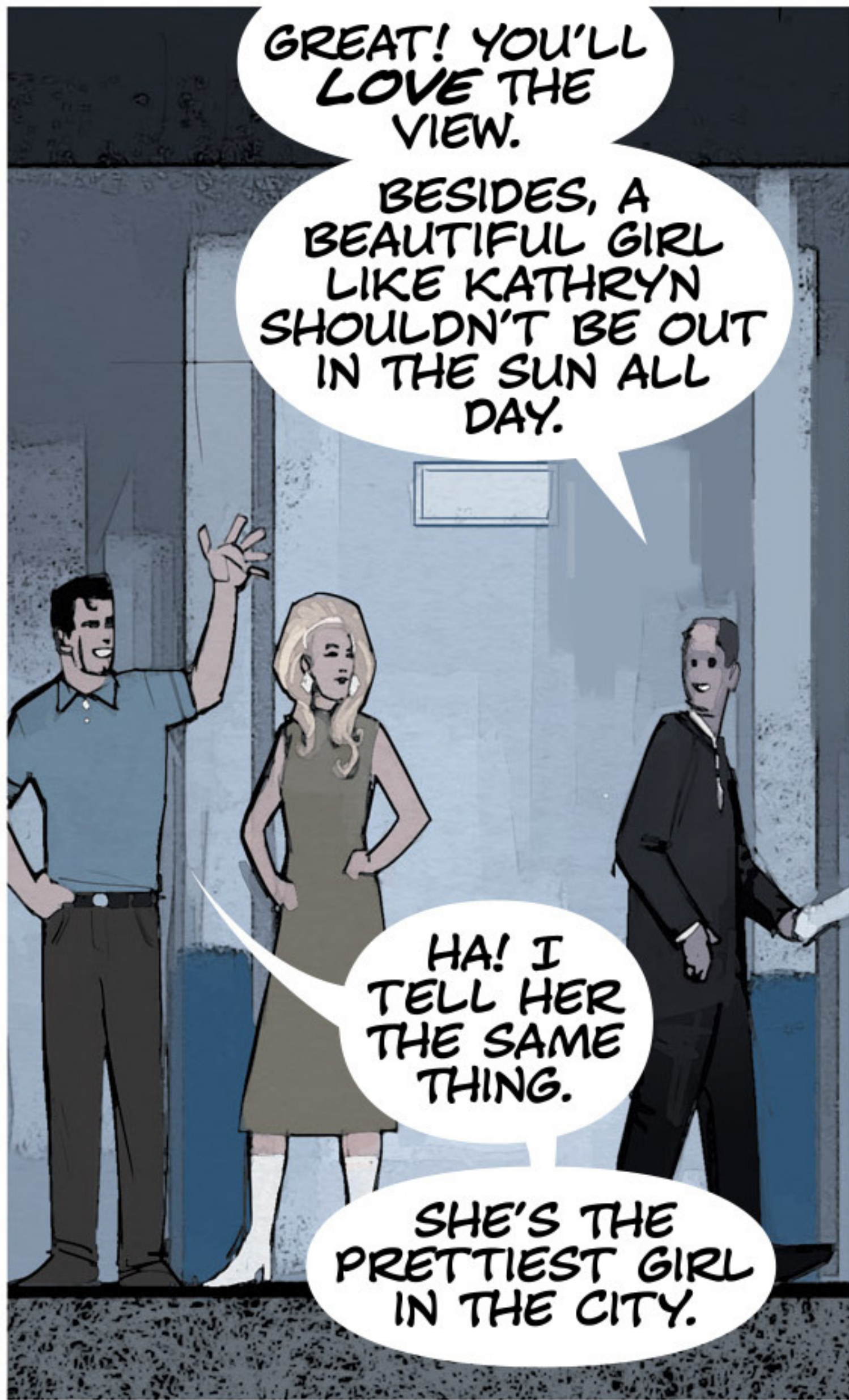
AND HERE I
THOUGHT IT WAS
BECAUSE WE LOVE
EACH OTHER.



WELL OF
COURSE.
THAT
TOO.

I
THINK IT'S
RADIA...?







CHAPTER 3

Perception

CENTRAL 02 - THE LOOP
C.O.W.L. NEGOTIATIONS - DAY 28

CONGRESS HOTEL

CONSIDERING WHERE
WE STARTED A
MONTH AGO...

...WE BELIEVE THIS
PROPOSAL ADDRESSES
YOUR CONCERNS IN A
WAY THAT'S STILL
BENEFICIAL TO THE
CITY AND TO
TAXPAYERS.

IT'S
MORE
THAN
FAIR.

WE CAN GO
THROUGH THIS LINE
BY LINE, BUT A FEW
THINGS OF NOTE--
WE'RE WILLING TO
INCREASE HOURLY
WAGES BY TWO
PERCENT.

BUT WE'D
LIKE TO OFFSET
THAT BY EXTENDING
THE SERVICE LIFE OF
YOUR PATROL CARS
FOR AN ADDITIONAL
TWO YEARS
BEFORE THEY'RE
REPLACED.

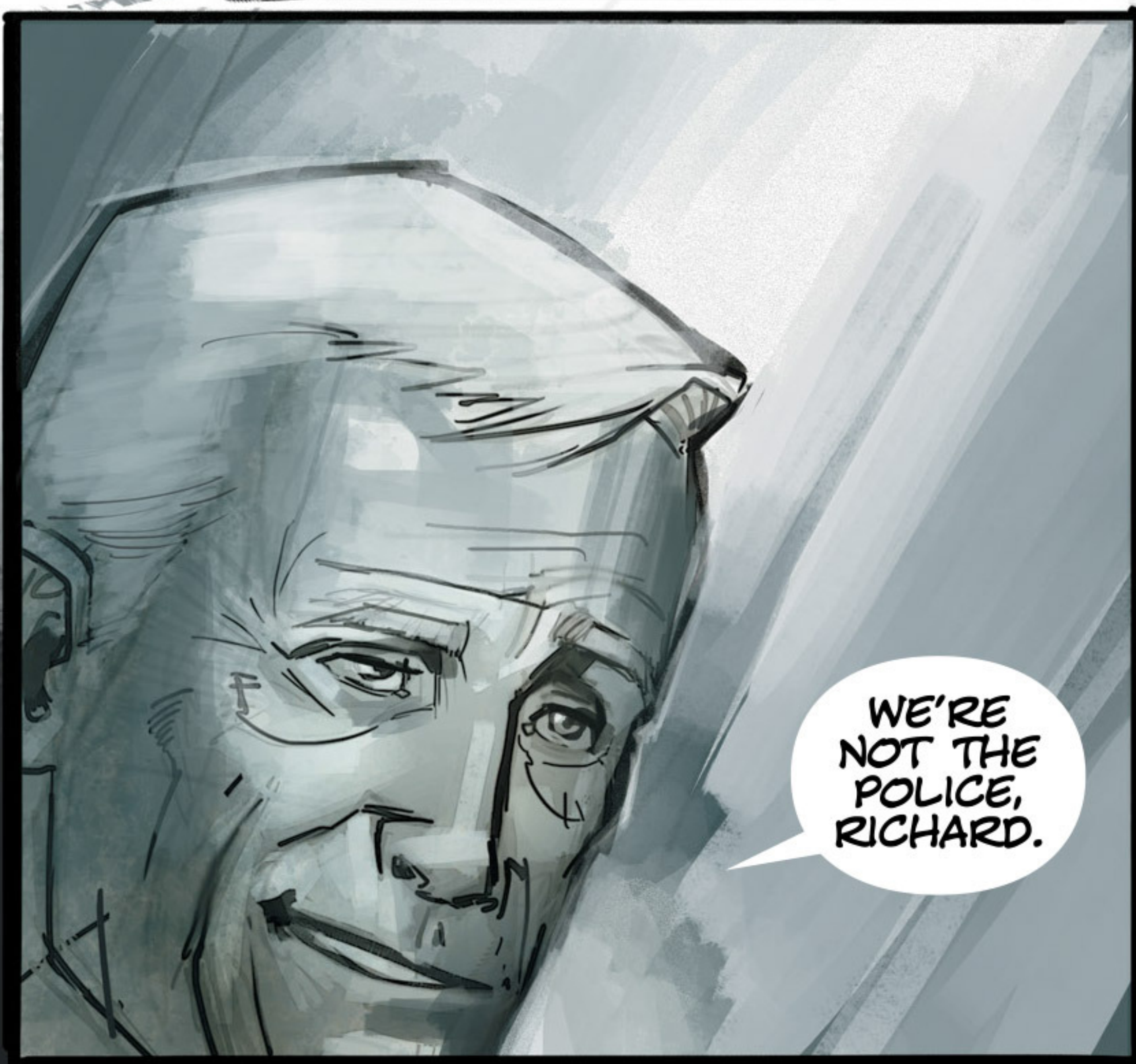
EVEN WITH
MAINTENANCE
COSTS, IT'S STILL
SUBSTANTIALLY
LESS THAN THE
COST OF NEW
VEHICLES.

AND
BALLISTIC NYLON
UPGRADES NEED
TO BE REVISITED
IN THE NEXT
FISCAL YEAR.

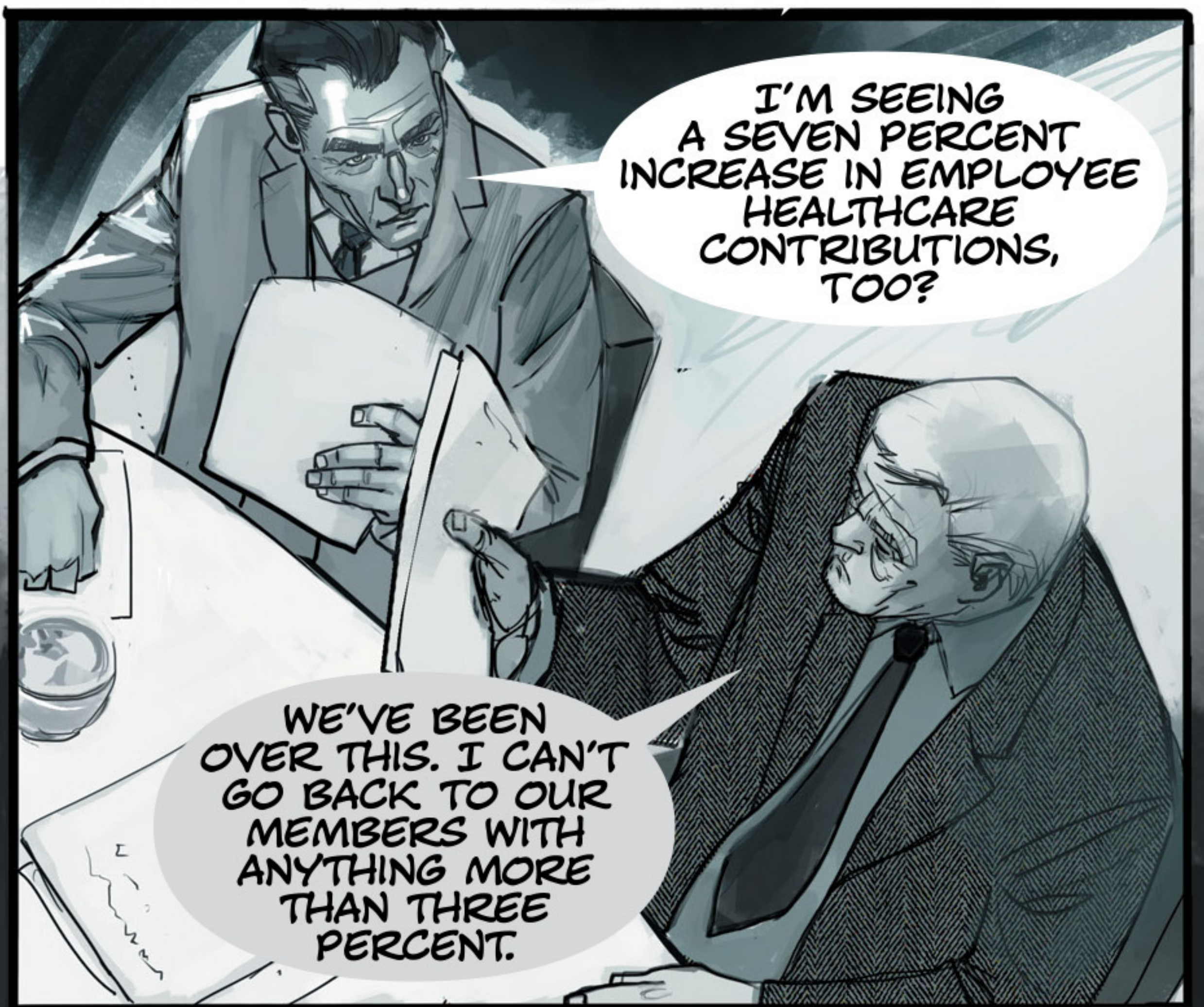


WHY DOES BALLISTIC NYLON CONTINUE TO BE SINGLED OUT? IT SHOULD BE UP TO C.O.W.L. HOW TO ALLOCATE THAT MONEY.

THE POLICE DON'T EVEN HAVE ARMOR LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, GEOFFREY.



WE'RE NOT THE POLICE, RICHARD.

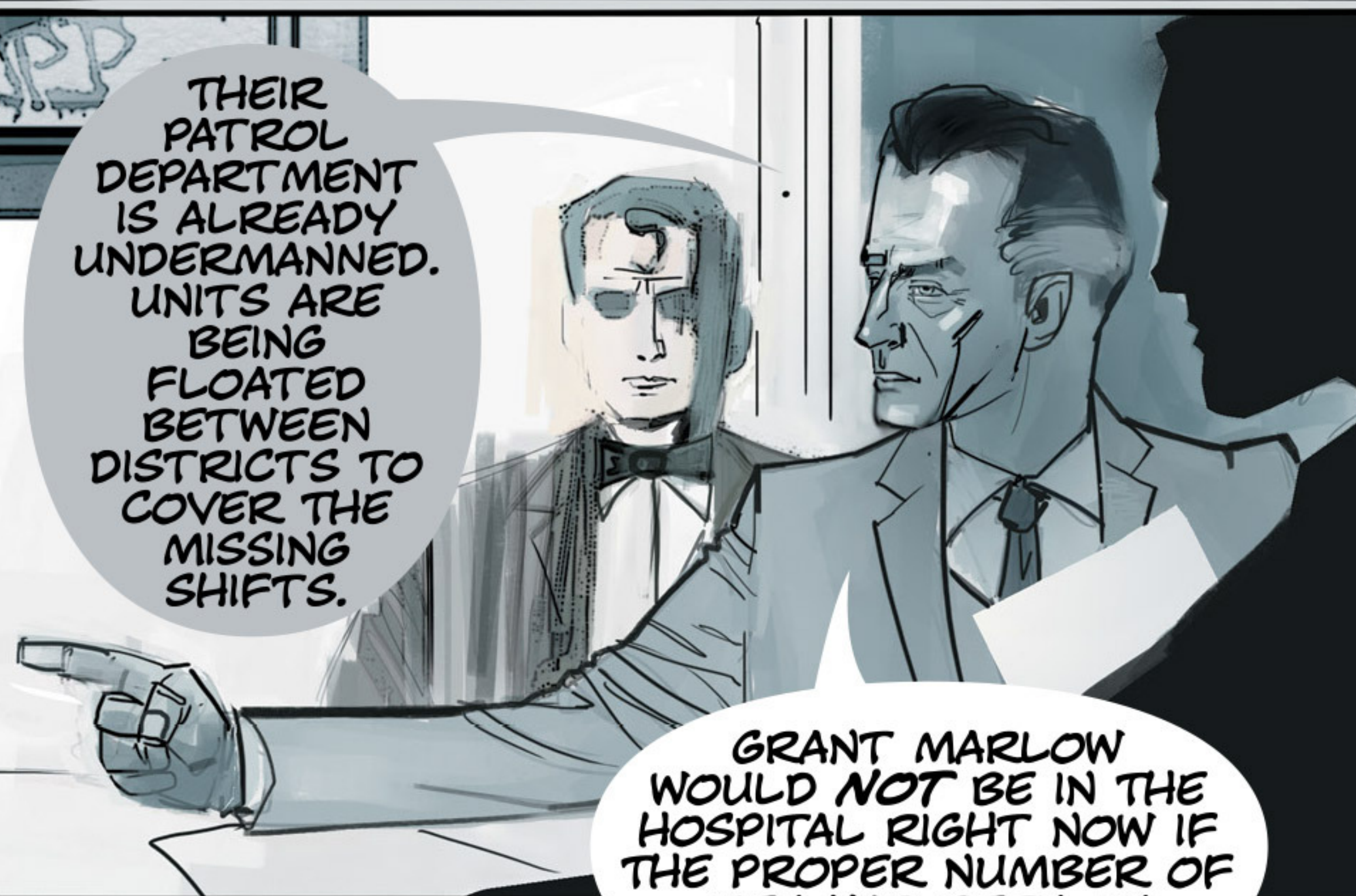


I'M SEEING A SEVEN PERCENT INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE CONTRIBUTIONS, TOO?

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS. I CAN'T GO BACK TO OUR MEMBERS WITH ANYTHING MORE THAN THREE PERCENT.



THAT'S SIMPLY NOT SUSTAINABLE AT THE ORGANIZATION'S CURRENT POPULATION. WITHOUT PERSONNEL CUTS--

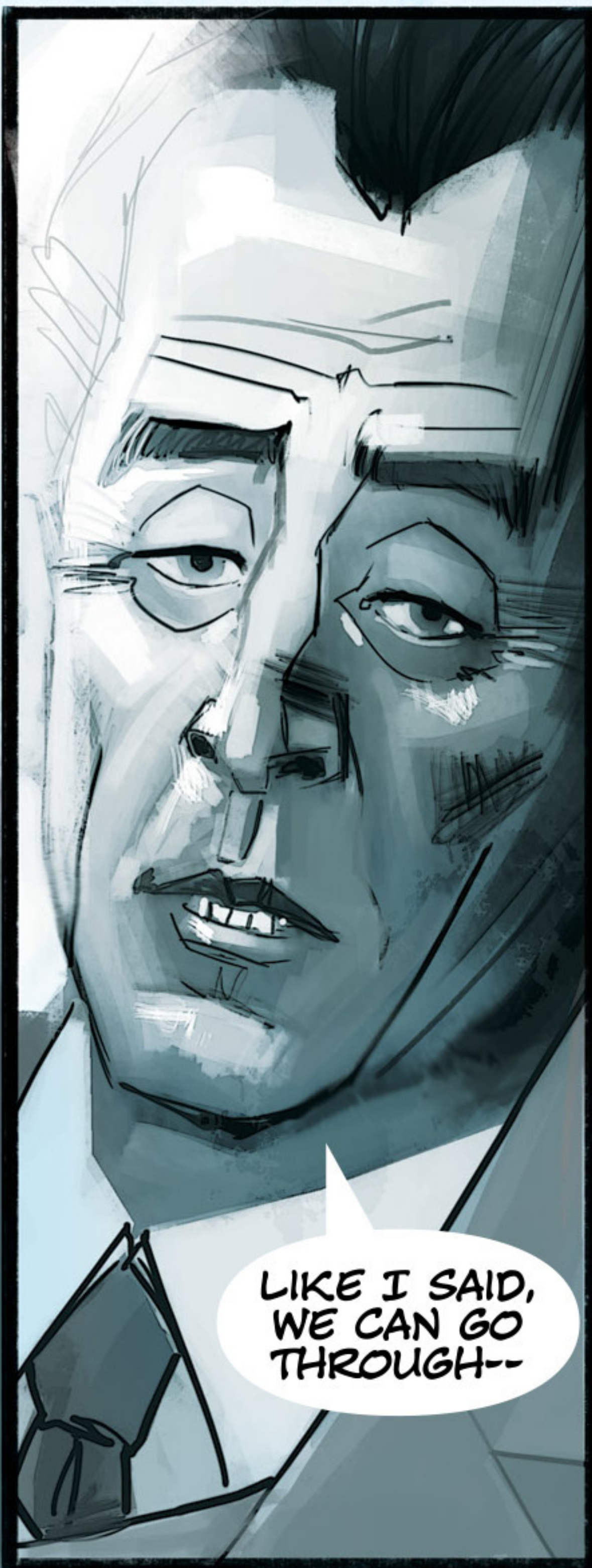


THEIR PATROL DEPARTMENT IS ALREADY UNDERMANNED. UNITS ARE BEING FLOATED BETWEEN DISTRICTS TO COVER THE MISSING SHIFTS.

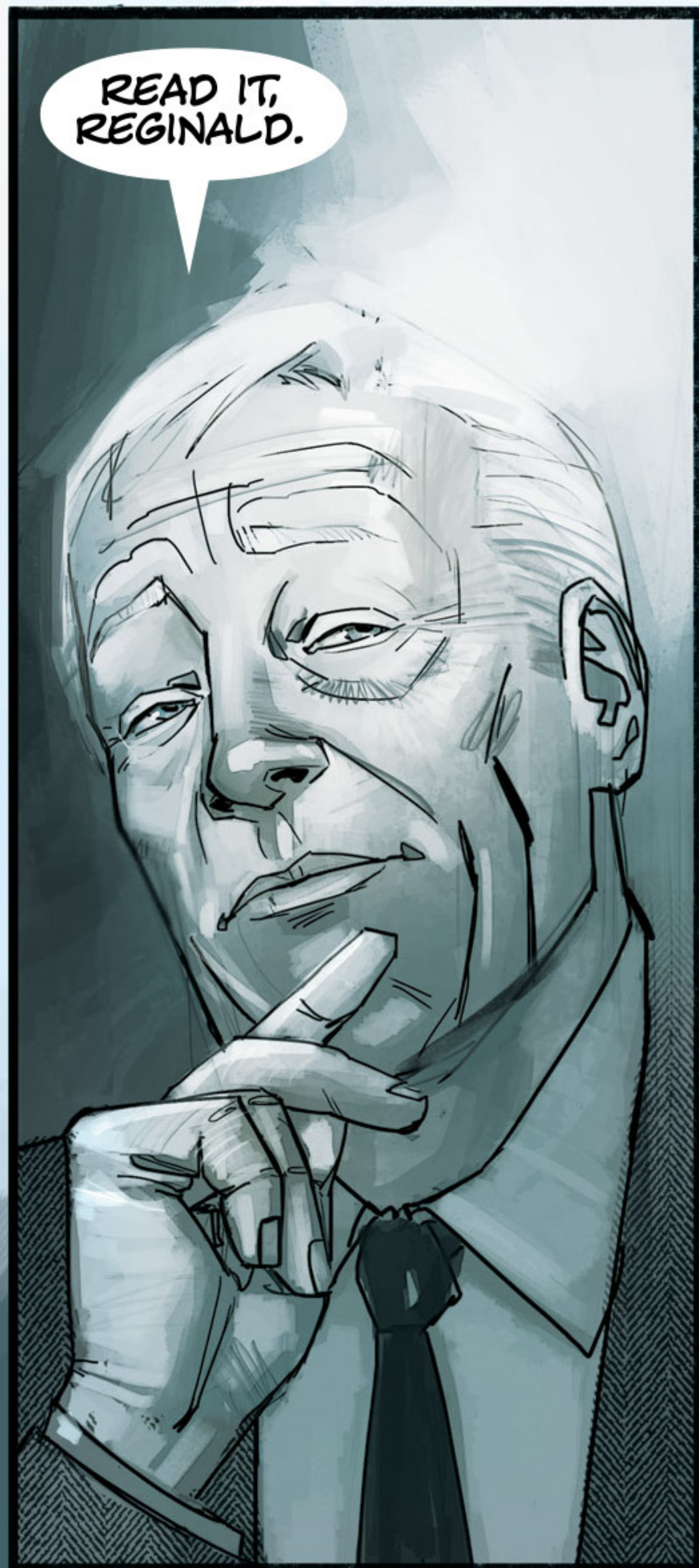
GRANT MARLOW WOULD NOT BE IN THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW IF THE PROPER NUMBER OF MEN HAD BEEN ON THE STREETS.



IS ANYONE
GOING TO
TALK ABOUT
ARTICLE SIX?



LIKE I SAID,
WE CAN GO
THROUGH--



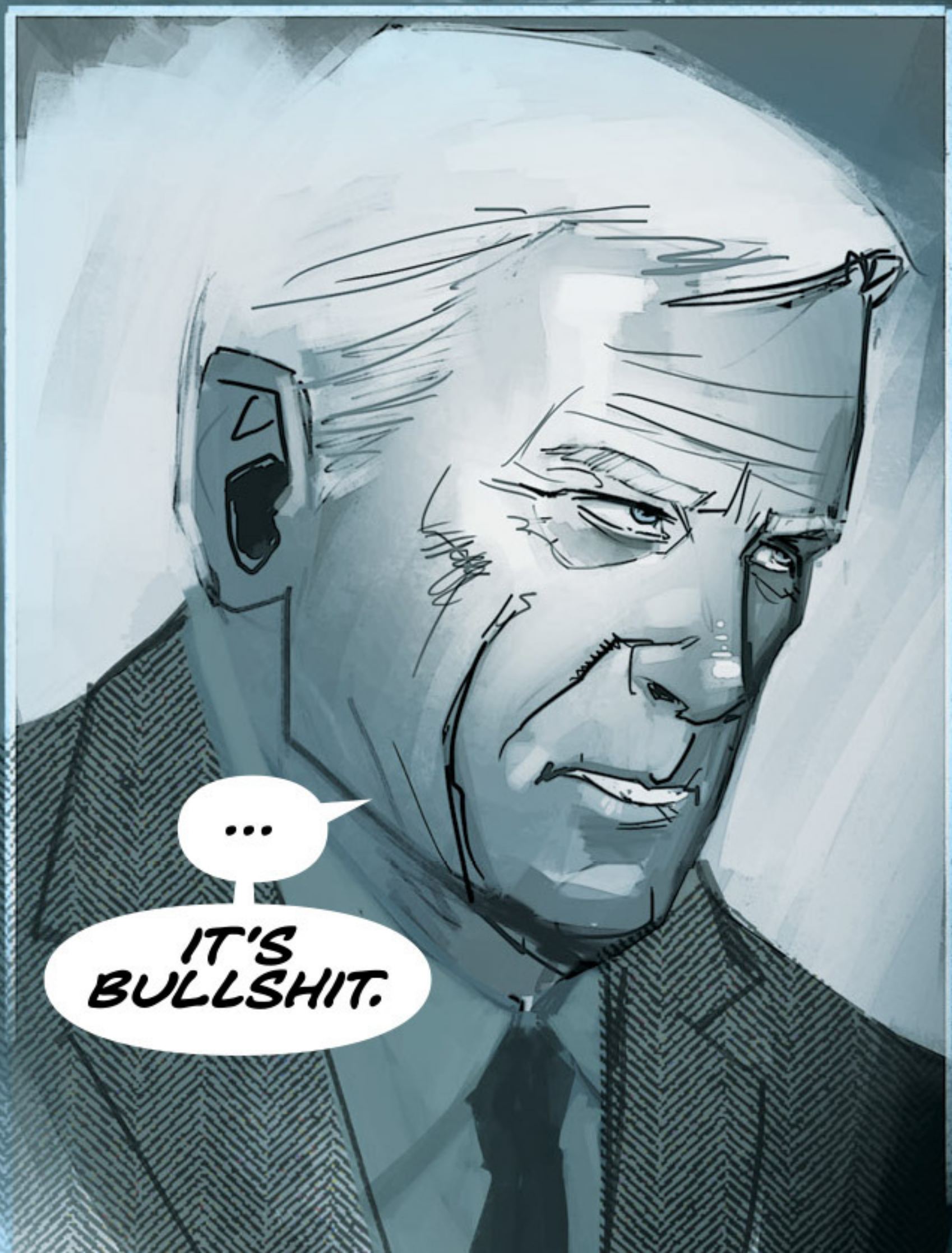
READ IT,
REGINALD.



"SUPER-
POWERED
INDIVIDUALS
SEEKING
EMPLOYMENT
WITH THE CITY OF
CHICAGO IN A LAW
ENFORCEMENT
CAPACITY MUST
BE LICENSED AND
CERTIFIED BY,
AND WILL
FALL UNDER
JURISDICTION OF,
THE CHICAGO
ORGANIZED
WORKERS
LEAGUE, UNLESS
IN SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCES
AS DETERMINED
BY THE CITY OF
CHICAGO."

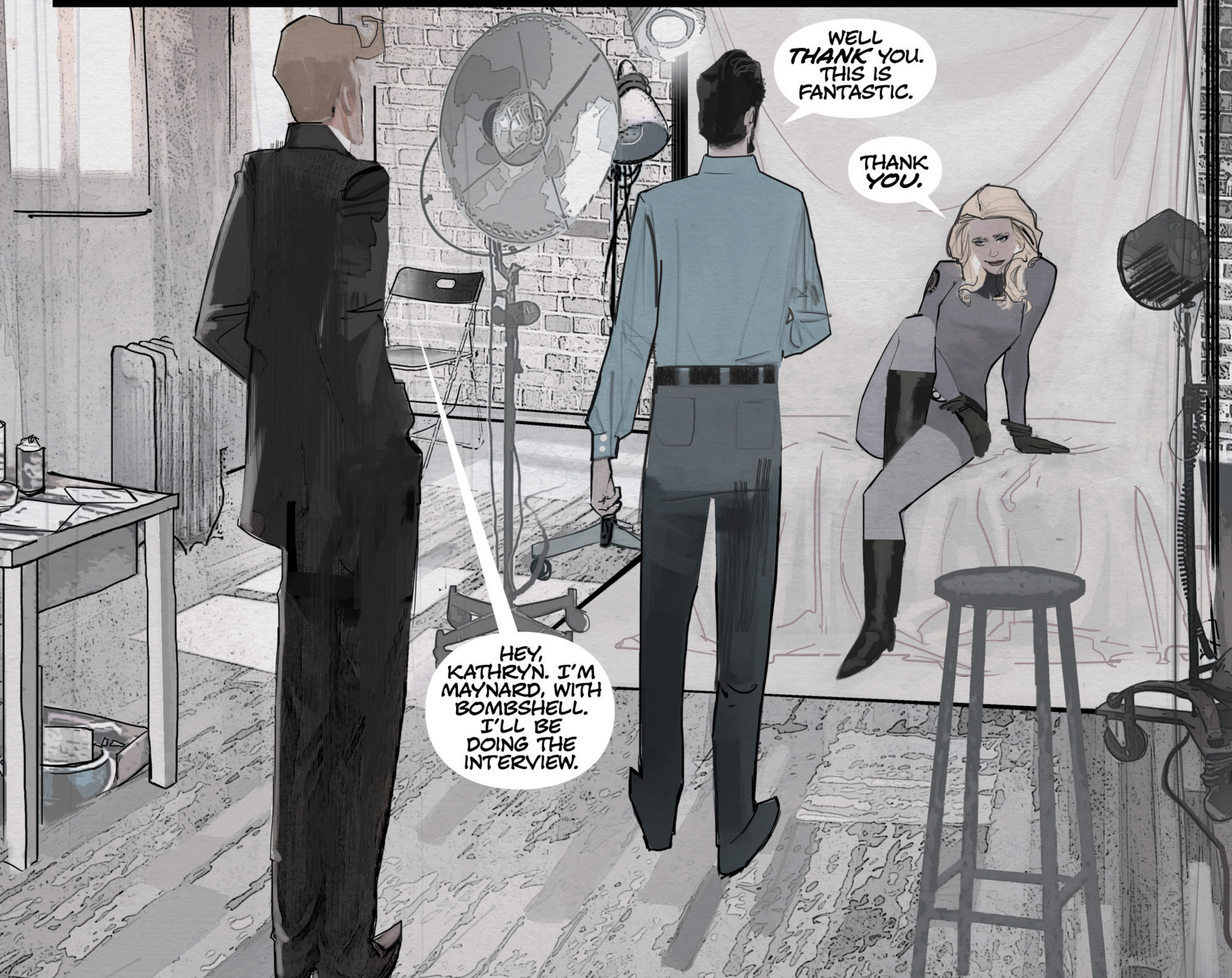


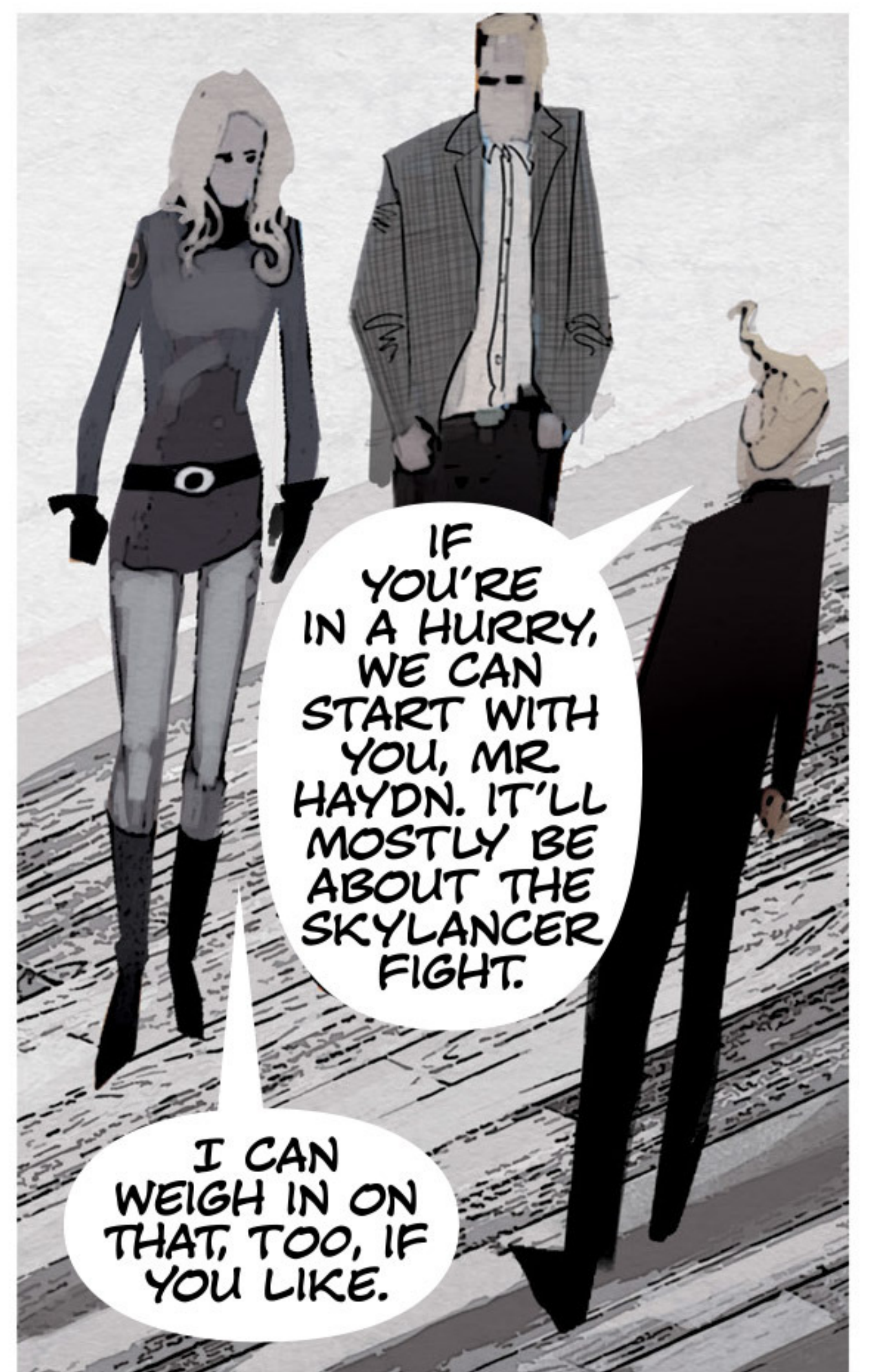
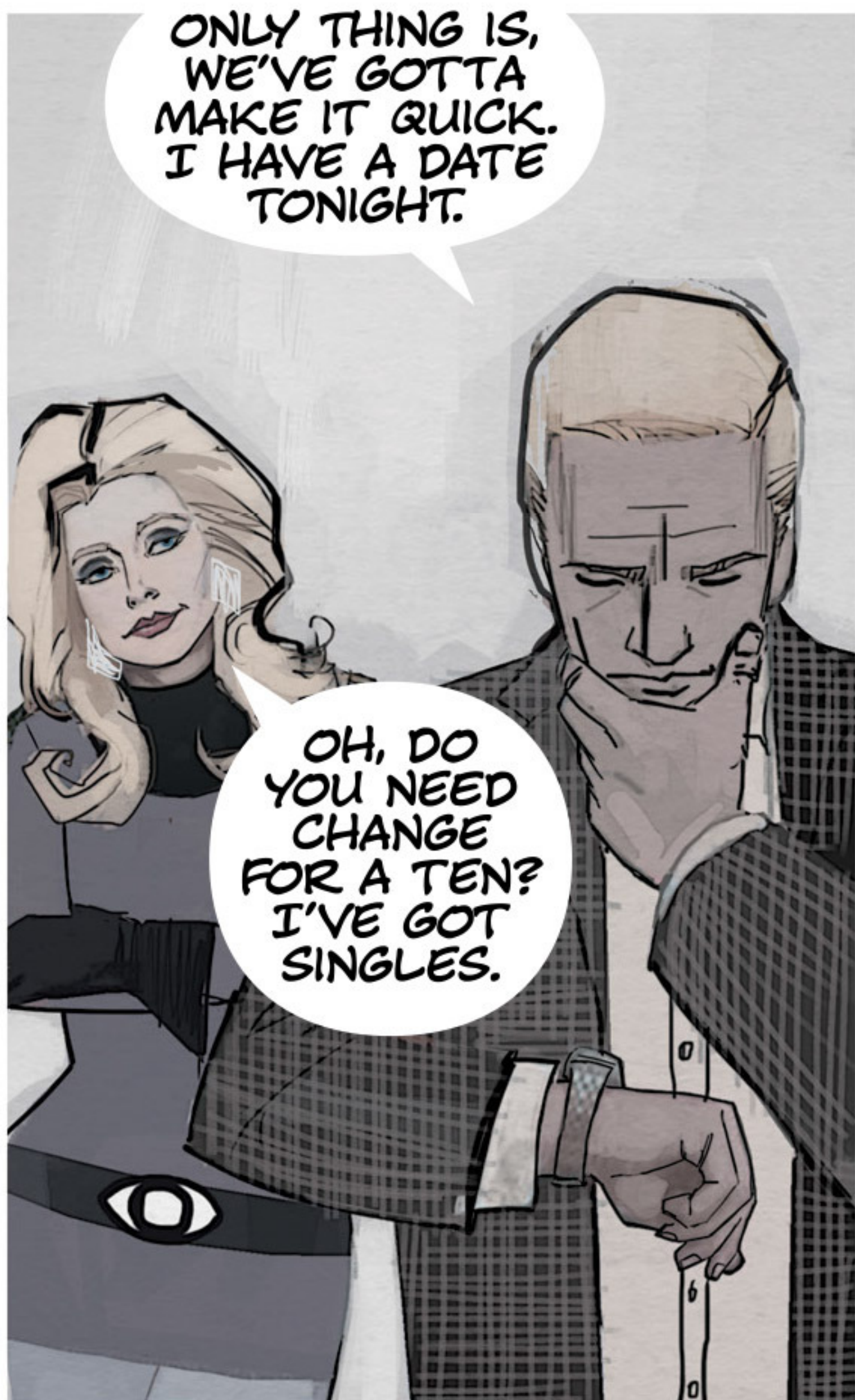
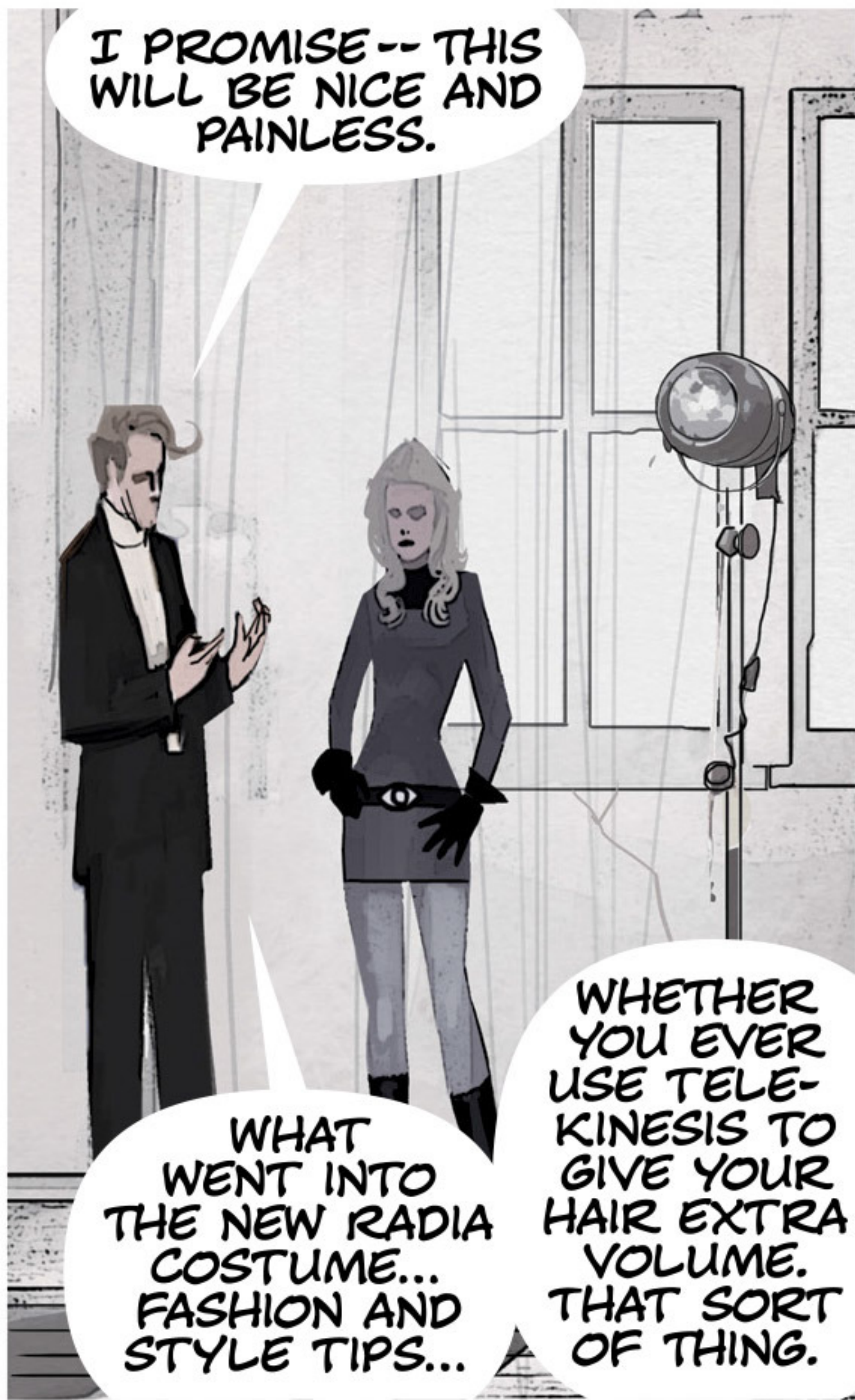
IT'S NEW
LANGUAGE.



...
IT'S
BULLSHIT.









TOP OF
THE NINTH,
YOGI BERRA
IN SCORING
POSITION.



WOULD IT
HAVE BEEN SO
HARD...



...TO PUSH THAT
PITCH A LITTLE
OUTSIDE?

SNAP!

NOW
THEY'VE
LOST
TWO IN A
ROW.



HOW DID
YOU KNOW I
WAS AT THE
GAME?

YOUR, UH,
PICTURE
SHOWED UP IN
THE PAPER. WITH
ALDERMAN
LOWE.

OH.



YOU
HEAR ABOUT
GRANT?



YEAH...
I DID.

HOW IS
HE?



A SHATTERED
WRIST, SOME
BUSTED RIBS, A
COLLAPSED LUNG,
A BRUISED
KIDNEY. HE'S
A MESS.

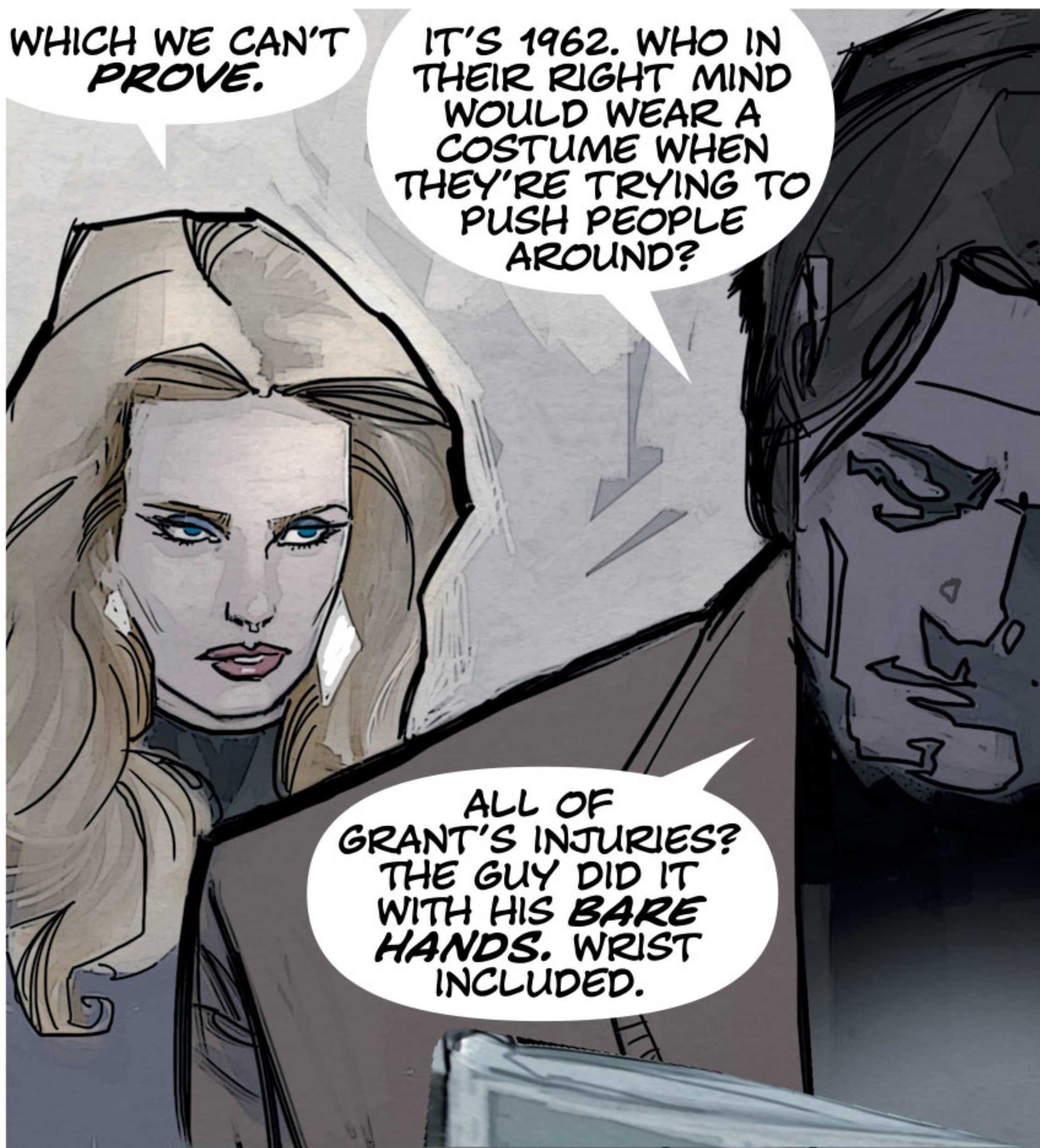


I'M
REALLY
SORRY, KARL.
IF THERE'S
ANYTHING I
CAN DO...



GRANT GOT THE
FUCK THAT DID THIS,
BUT THE REAL
PROBLEM'S CAMDEN
STONE.

THE
POLICE HAVE
JURISDICTION...
BUT HE'S GOT
POWERS
WORKING
FOR HIM.



WHICH WE CAN'T
PROVE.

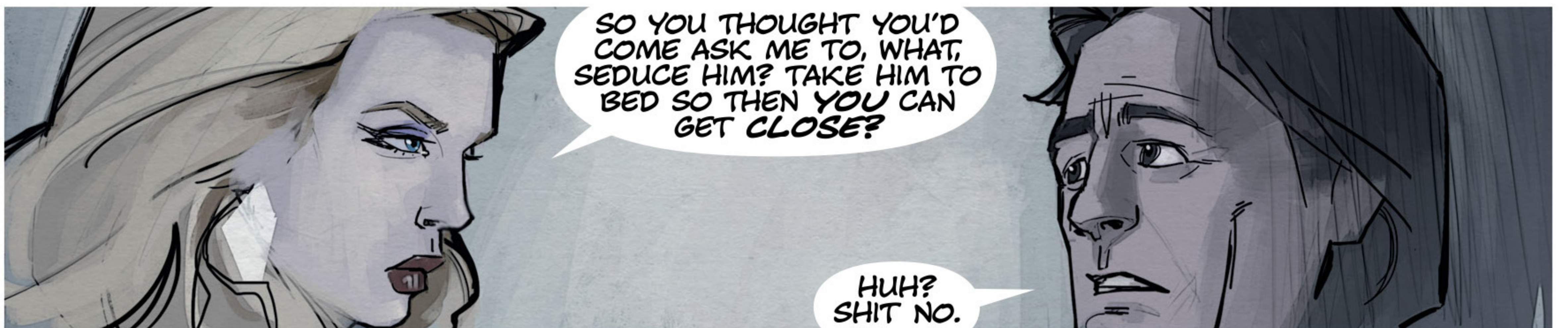
IT'S 1962. WHO IN
THEIR RIGHT MIND
WOULD WEAR A
COSTUME WHEN
THEY'RE TRYING TO
PUSH PEOPLE
AROUND?

ALL OF
GRANT'S INJURIES?
THE GUY DID IT
WITH HIS **BARE**
HANDS. WRIST
INCLUDED.



LOOK... BOTTOM LINE, I
WANT TO SEND CAMDEN
STONE A MESSAGE.

AND A
GUY LIKE
ME CAN
ONLY DO SO
MUCH.



SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D
COME ASK ME TO, WHAT,
SEDUCE HIM? TAKE HIM TO
BED SO THEN YOU CAN
GET CLOSE?

HUH?
SHIT NO.



I WANT YOU TO
SCARE THE **FUCK**
OUT OF HIM.

CENTRAL 01 - NEAR NORTH SIDE
C.O.W.L. HEADQUARTERS

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
YOU R&D
GUYS KEEP
THIS ALL
STRAIGHT.

SO MANY
HEROES, SO
MANY
SPECIFIC
NEEDS...

TELL ME
ABOUT IT. THIS WEEK
ALONE I WORKED ON
THREE NEW COSTUMES,
A RETROFIT TO ONE OF
THE PATROL CARS, AND
I STILL HAVE TO
TUNE BLAZE'S
GAUNTLET. SO, IF
YOU NEED
SOMETHING,
JOHN...

NO, NO, I
WOULDN'T WANT
TO BURDEN YOU.
I'M JUST TRYING
TO GET A FEEL
FOR HOW THINGS
WORK IN OTHER
DEPARTMENTS.

IT'S PRETTY
STRAIGHTFORWARD
SERVICE REQUESTS
DOWN HERE.

AND HOW
DO YOU GUYS
KEEP TRACK
OF PAST
WORK?

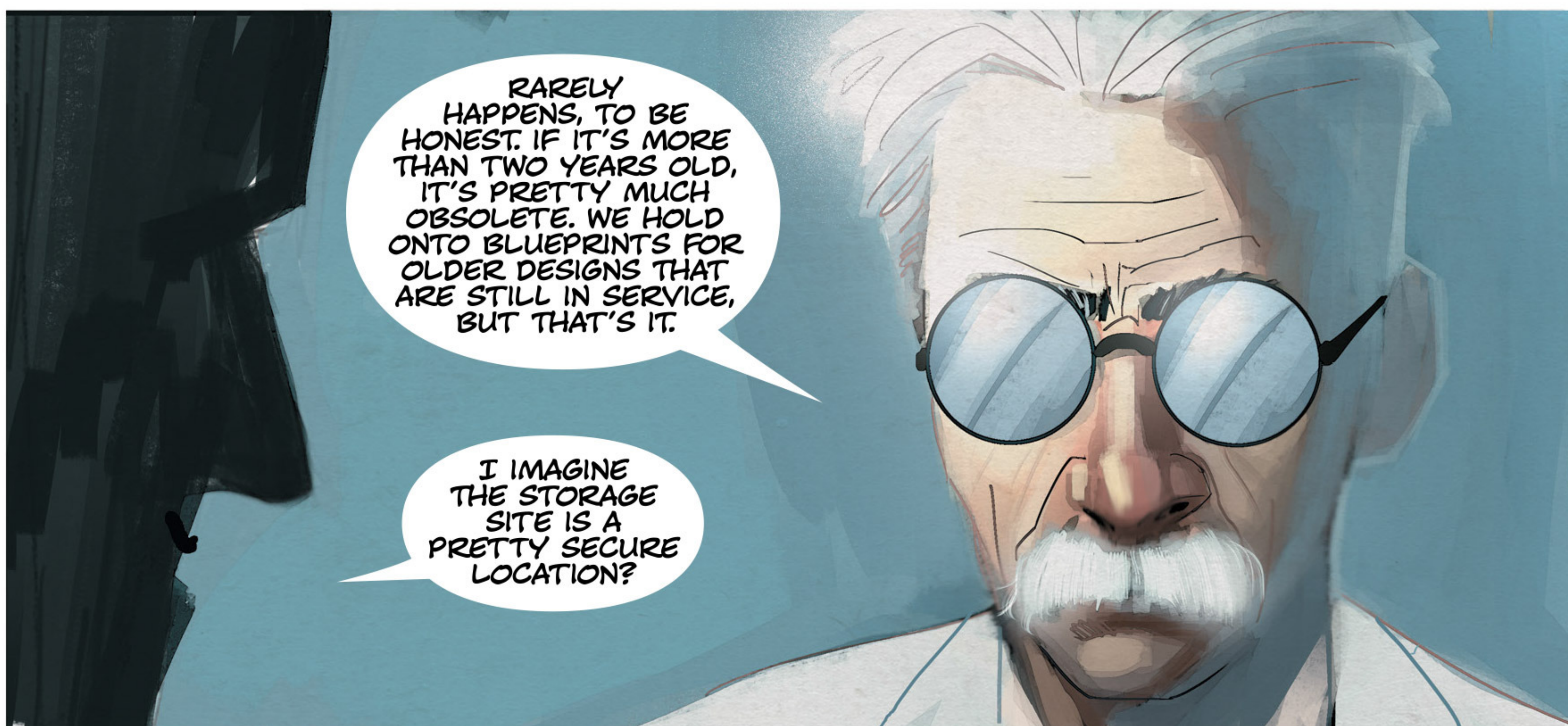
IT MUST BE A
PRETTY COMPLEX
ARCHIVE SYSTEM.

UP UNTIL
LAST YEAR
WE KEPT
EVERYTHING
LOCAL. WHICH
WAS A
NIGHTMARE.

NOW,
EVERYTHING FROM
BEFORE '60 IS OFF
SITE. IN A STORAGE
FACILITY.



WHAT IF
YOU HAVE TO
REFER BACK
TO AN OLD
DESIGN?



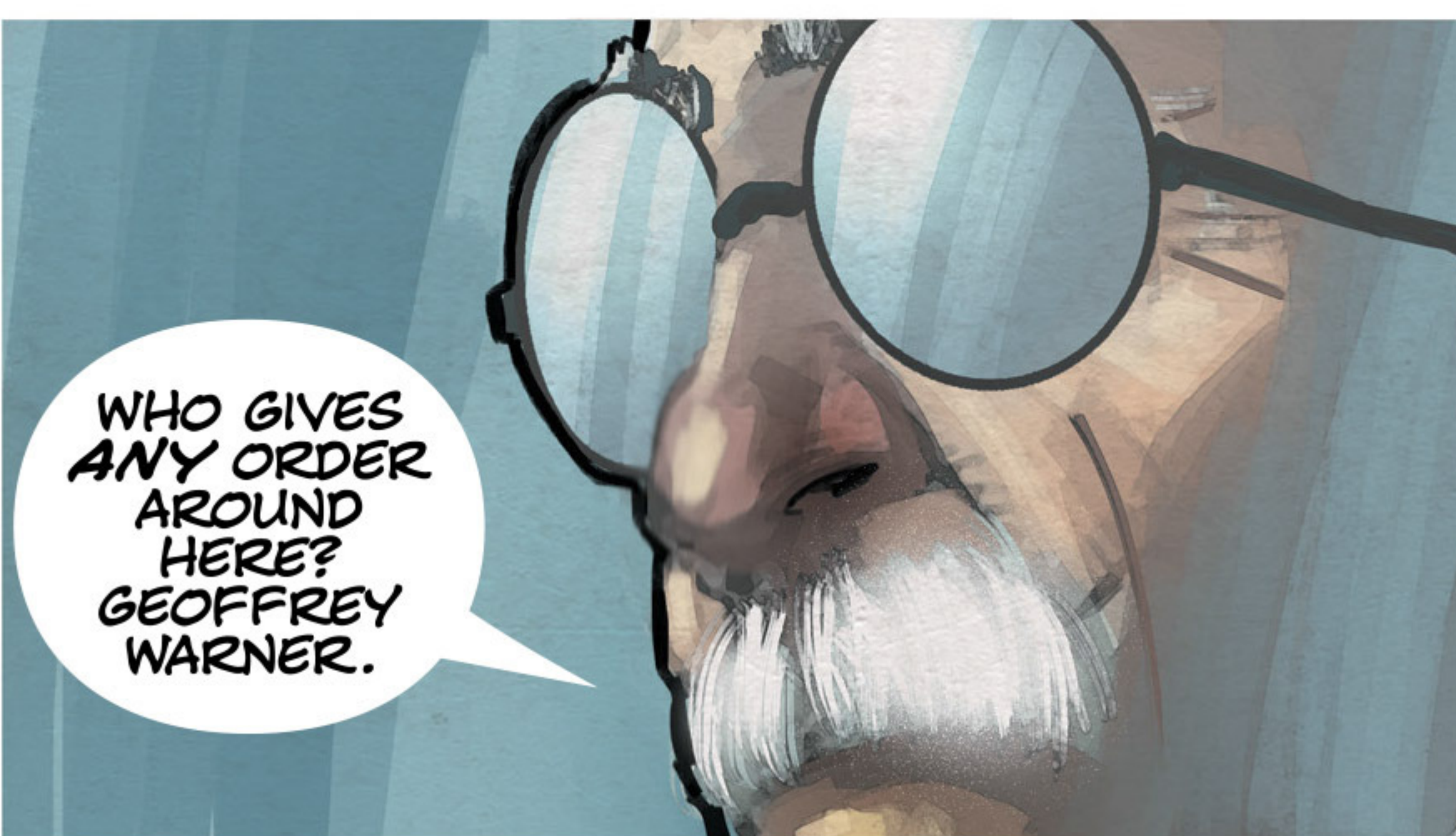
RARELY
HAPPENS, TO BE
HONEST. IF IT'S MORE
THAN TWO YEARS OLD,
IT'S PRETTY MUCH
OBSOLETE. WE HOLD
ONTO BLUEPRINTS FOR
OLDER DESIGNS THAT
ARE STILL IN SERVICE,
BUT THAT'S IT.

I IMAGINE
THE STORAGE
SITE IS A
PRETTY SECURE
LOCATION?



SURE.
ALTHOUGH, I'VE
NEVER ACTUALLY
BEEN OVER
THERE. WE GOT
THE ORDER TO
BOX IT ALL UP
AND THAT WAS
THAT.

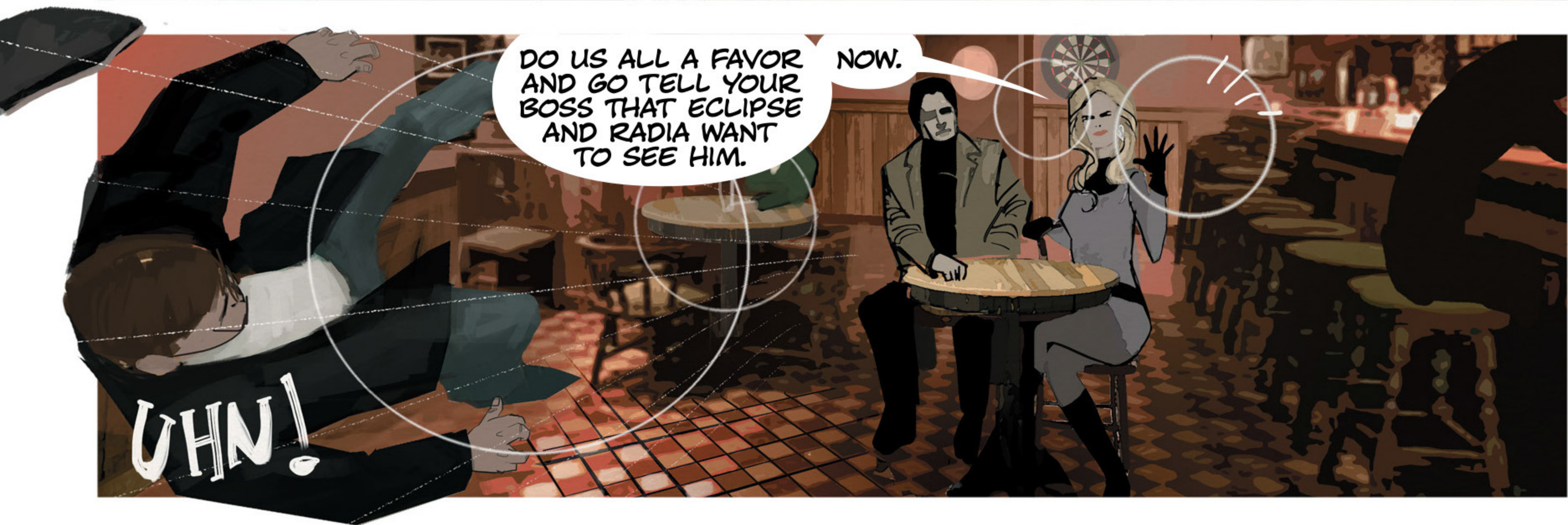
WHO
GAVE THE
ORDER?

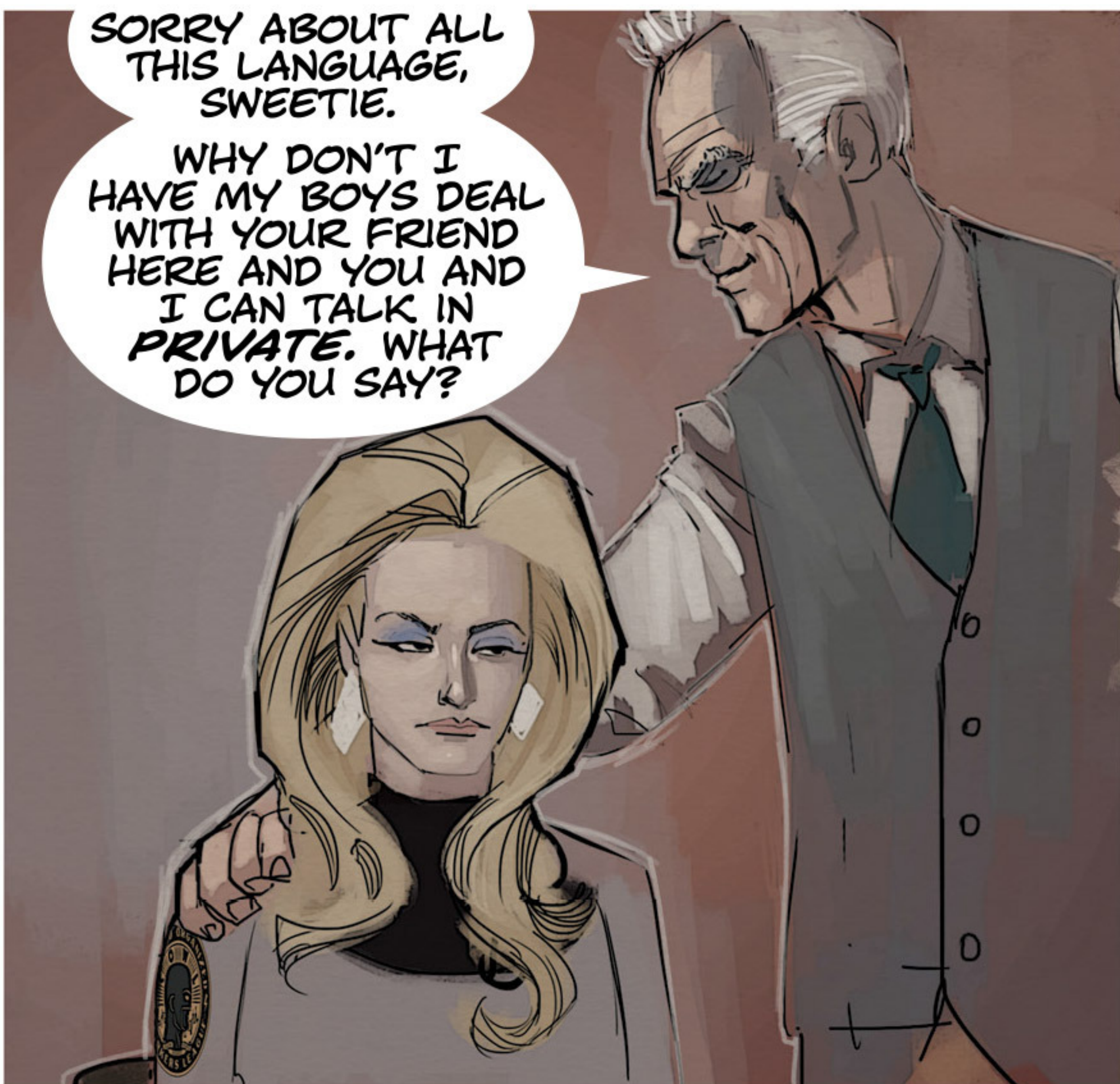


WHO GIVES
ANY ORDER
AROUND
HERE?
GEOFFREY
WARNER.



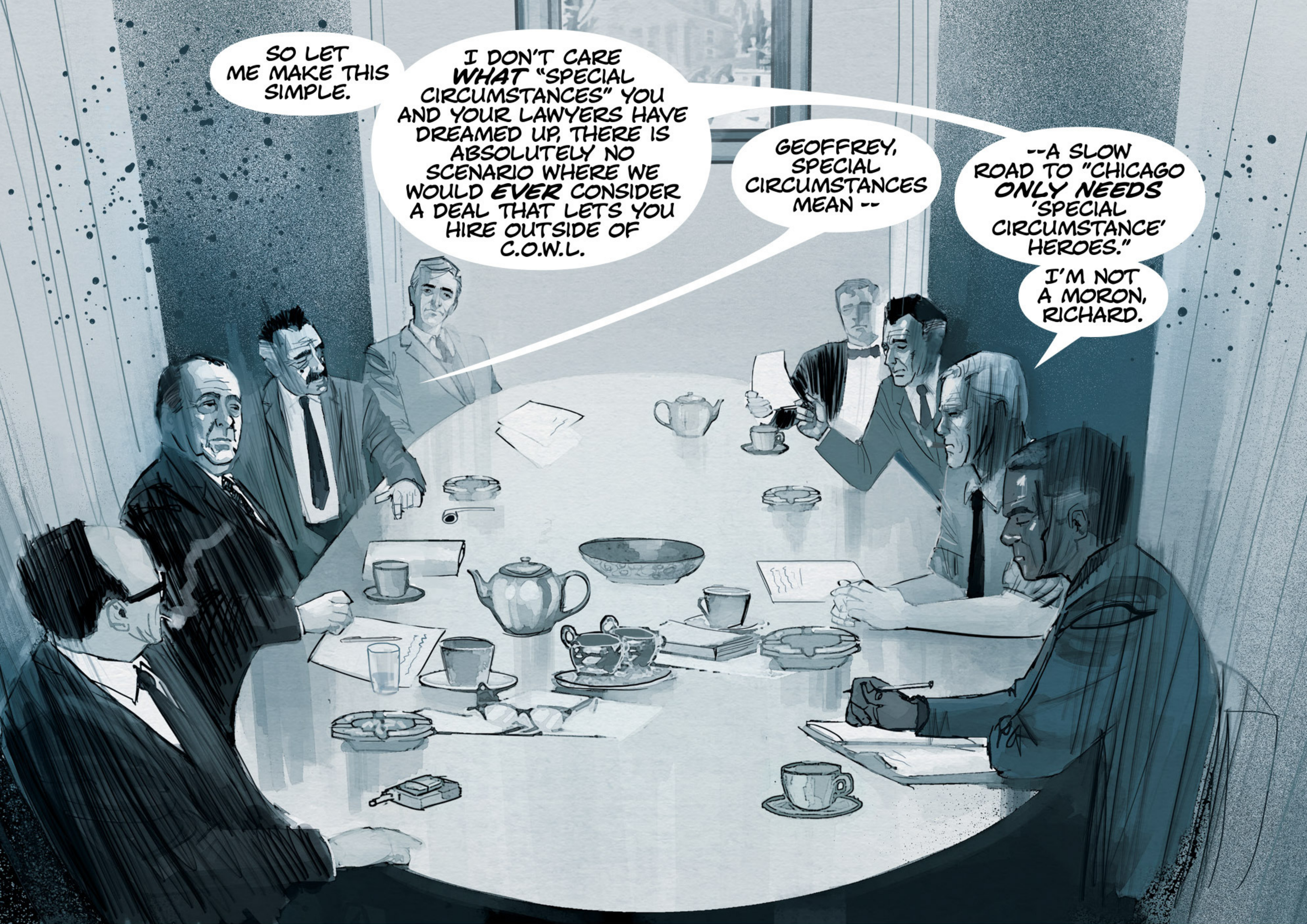
THINK
I COULD
TROUBLE
YOU FOR THE
ADDRESS?











SO LET
ME MAKE THIS
SIMPLE.

I DON'T CARE
**WHAT "SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCES"** YOU
AND YOUR LAWYERS HAVE
DREAMED UP, THERE IS
ABSOLUTELY NO
SCENARIO WHERE WE
WOULD **EVER** CONSIDER
A DEAL THAT LETS YOU
HIRE OUTSIDE OF
C.O.W.L.

GEOFFREY,
SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCES
MEAN --

--A SLOW
ROAD TO "CHICAGO
ONLY NEEDS
'SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCE'
HEROES."

I'M NOT
A MORON,
RICHARD.



WE HAVE
THREE HUNDRED
PEOPLE SPREAD
ACROSS FIVE
DIVISIONS. WE HAVE
SCREENING
PROCESSES, STRICT
TRAINING
REGIMENTS, AND
THIRTEEN YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE.

WE SAVE THIS
GOD DAMN CITY.
OR HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
THAT?

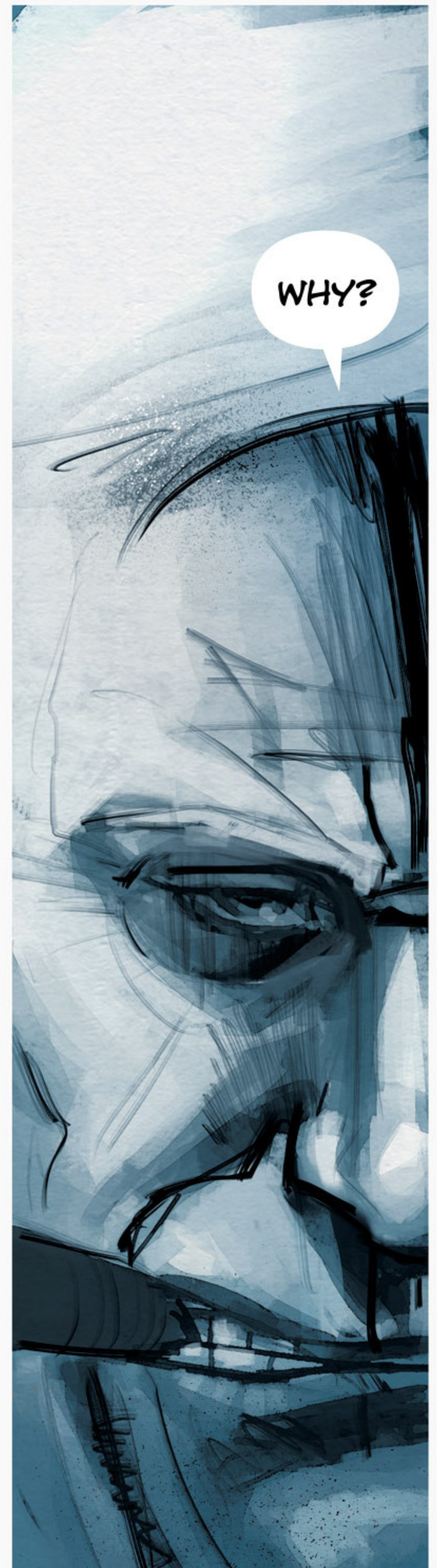


HOW COULD WE
FORGET IT
WHEN YOU KEEP
REMINDING
US?

I WANT TO BE
ABLE TO HIRE
NON-C.O.W.L.
MEMBERS IN LAW
ENFORCEMENT
CAPACITIES, AS
CIRCUMSTANCES
REQUIRE. END OF
DISCUSSION.



A WEEK
AGO, WE HAD A
PROPOSAL WE
WERE ALL CLOSE
ON. NOW, YOU'RE
BLOWING IT
UP.

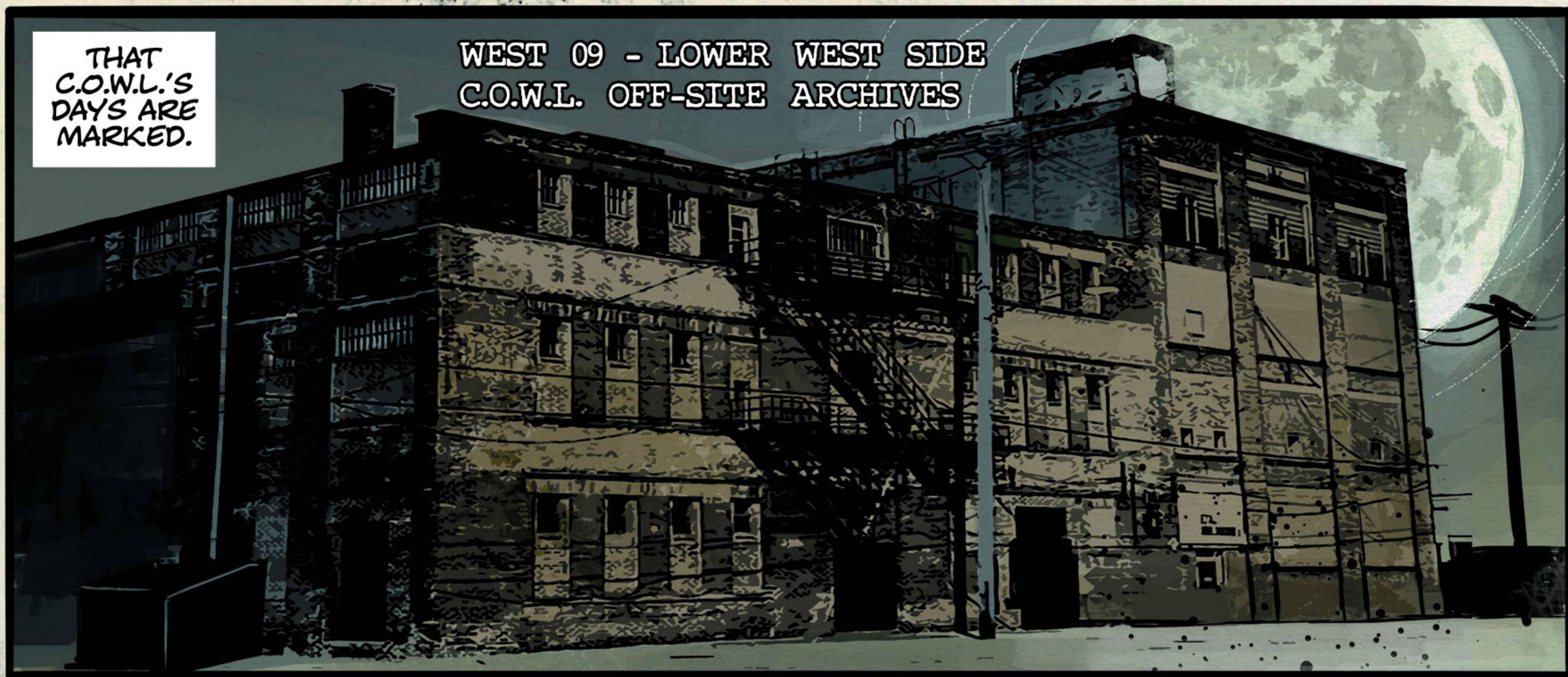


WHY?



THAT
C.O.W.L.'S
DAYS ARE
MARKED.

WEST 09 - LOWER WEST SIDE
C.O.W.L. OFF-SITE ARCHIVES





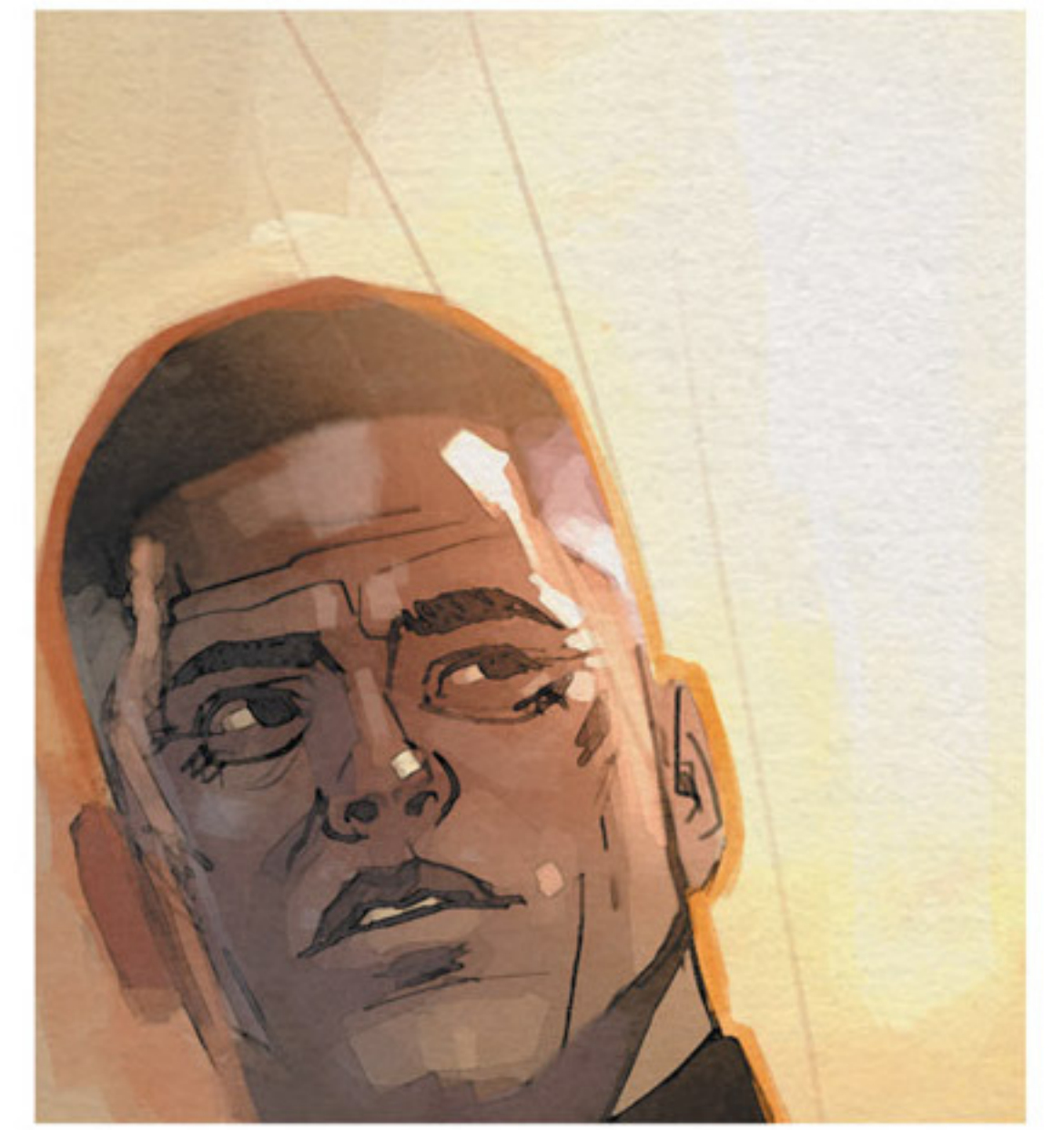


THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1962

40 PAGES 4 SECTIONS SEVEN CENTS

A black and white illustration of a protest. In the foreground, a man in a suit and tie is shouting, holding a sign that says "SHAME ON CHICAGO". Behind him, a man with a beard and a target on his forehead is also shouting. To the right, a man in a fedora is shouting. In the background, a woman is holding a sign that says "BRING NO SAFETY DALEY". The scene is filled with smoke or tear gas.







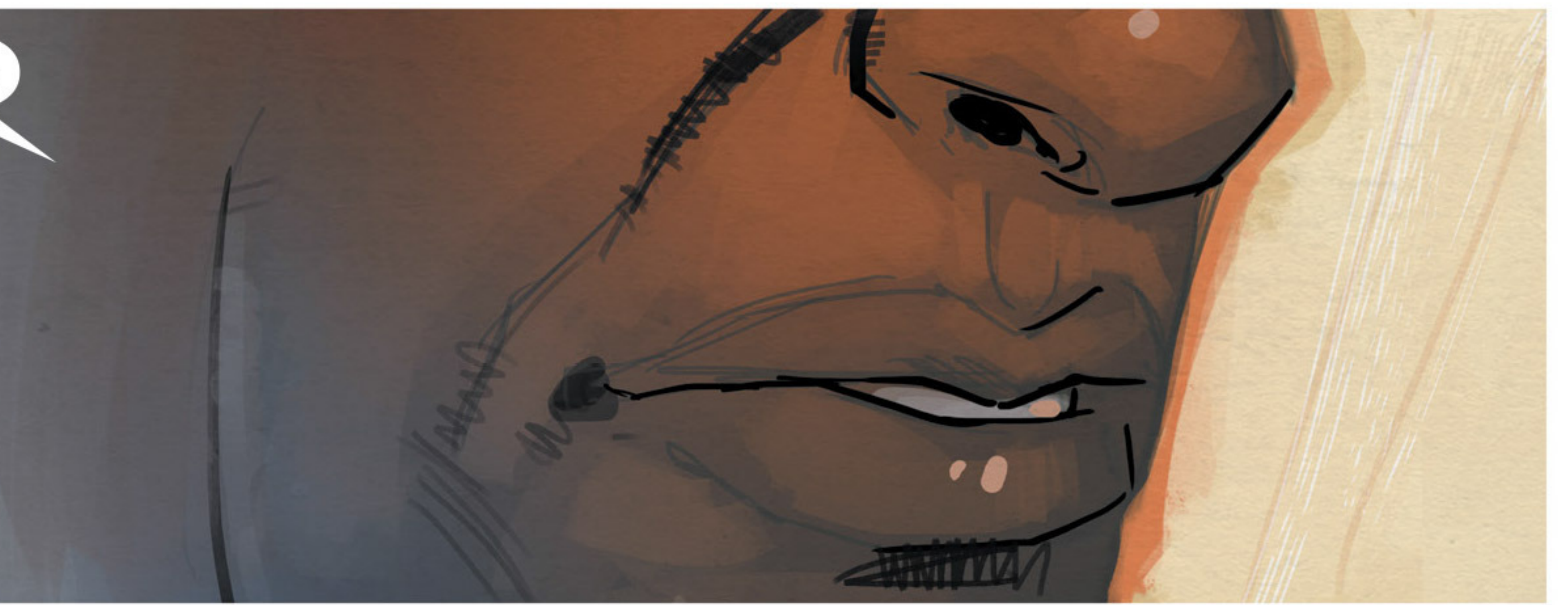
BESIDES,
GEOFFREY
AND I NEED
AS MANY
PEOPLE ON
THE PICKET
LINE AS
POSSIBLE.
IT'S FINE.



...
GEOFFREY
AND YOU. DO
YOU THINK
HE'D WORD IT
LIKE THAT?

RING!
RING!
RING!

THAT'S--



HELLO?

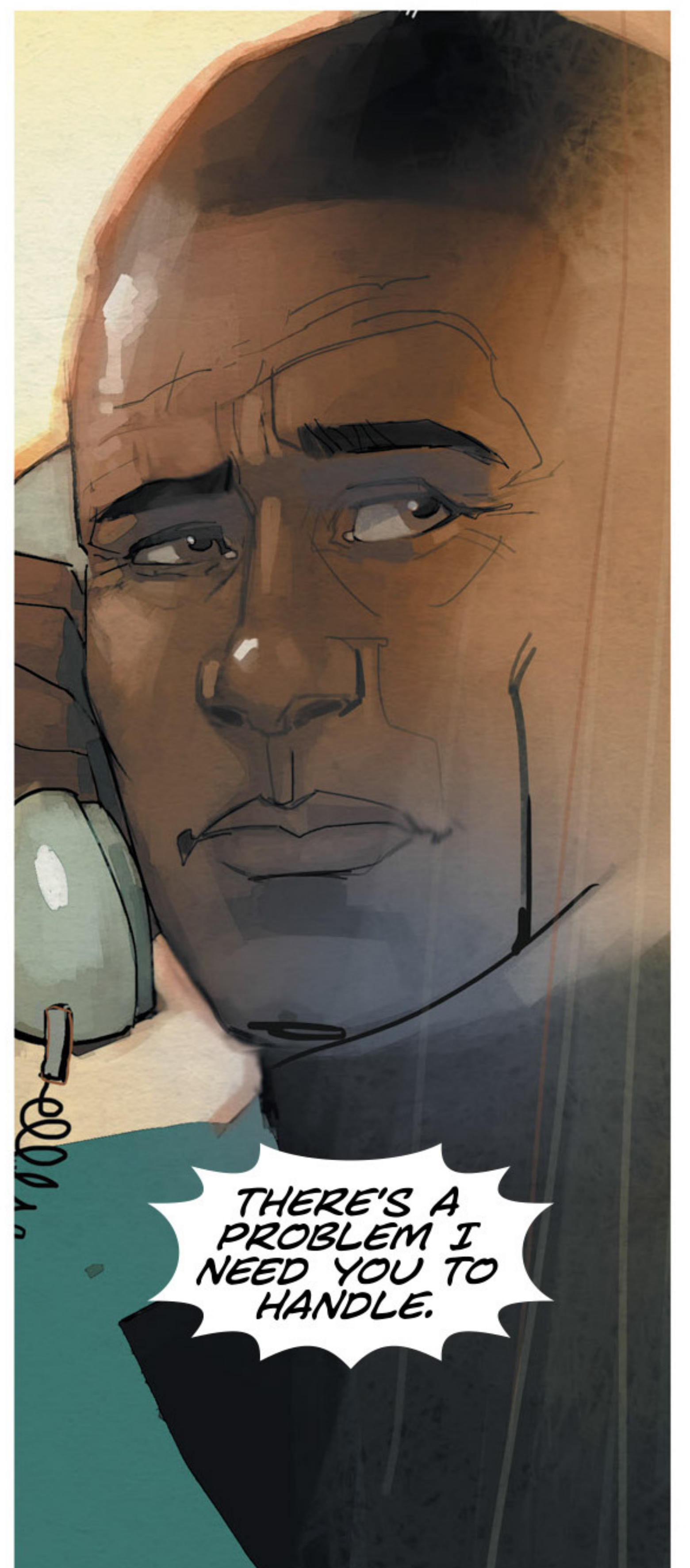
GOOD,
I'M GLAD I
CAUGHT YOU
AT HOME.

GEOFFREY?
I WAS JUST
HEADING TO CITY
HALL.

THAT
CAN
WAIT.



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

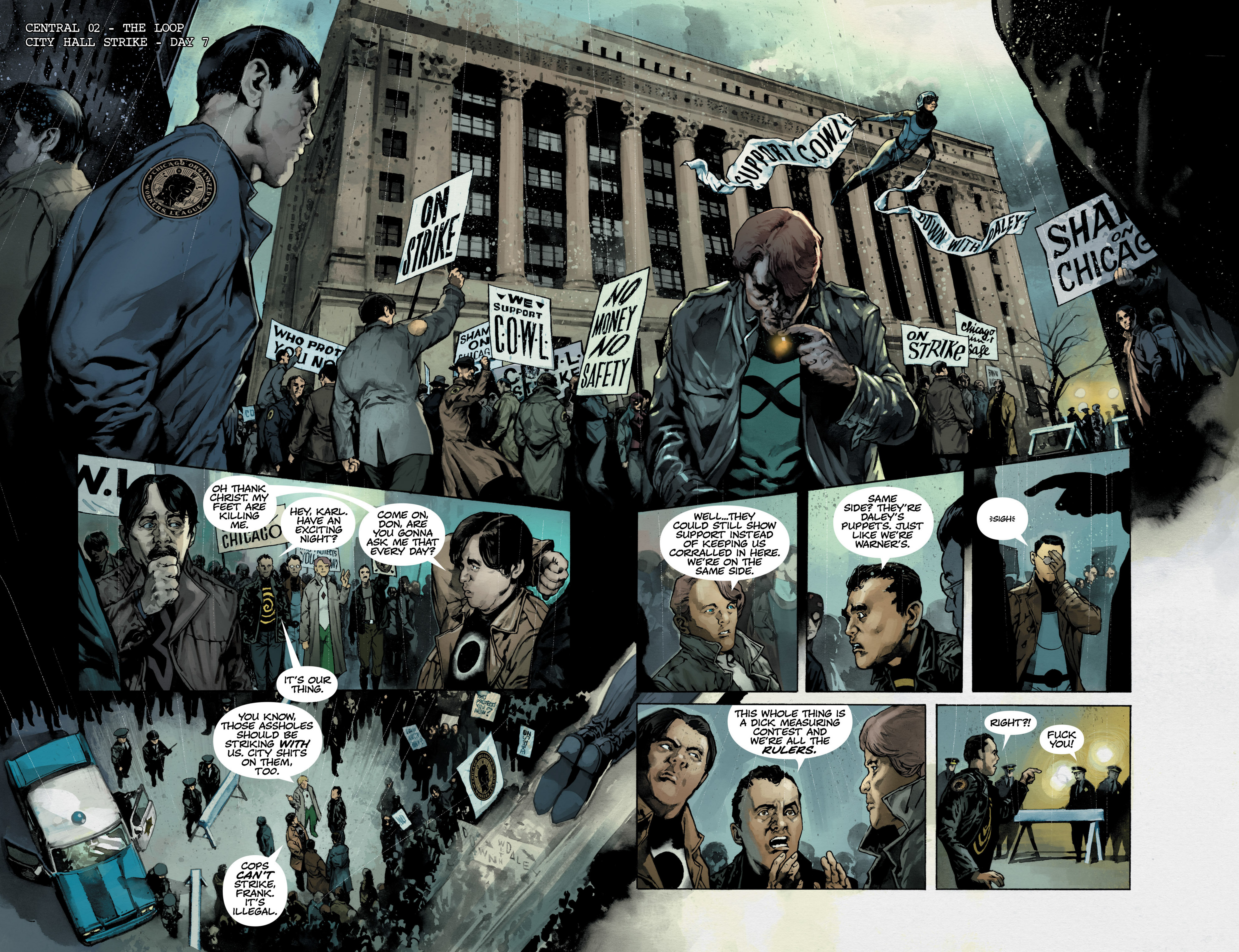


THERE'S A
PROBLEM I
NEED YOU TO
HANDLE.



CHAPTER 4

Unity



OH THANK CHRIST, MY FEET ARE KILLING ME.

HEY, KARL. HAVE AN EXCITING NIGHT?

COME ON, DON. ARE YOU GONNA ASK ME THAT EVERY DAY?

IT'S OUR THING.

YOU KNOW, THOSE ASSHOLES SHOULD BE STRIKING WITH US. CITY SHITS ON THEM, TOO.

COPS CAN'T STRIKE, FRANK. IT'S ILLEGAL.

WELL...THEY COULD STILL SHOW SUPPORT INSTEAD OF KEEPING US CORRALLED IN HERE. WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.

SAME SIDE? THEY'RE DALEY'S PUPPETS. JUST LIKE WE'RE WARNER'S.

SIGH

THIS WHOLE THING IS A DICK MEASURING CONTEST AND WE'RE ALL THE RULERS.

RIGHT?!

FUCK YOU!





OH SHIT IT'S YOU.



YEAH.
IT'S ME.



DINN'T
CALL YOU.

WELL I'M
THE ONE
WHO'S--



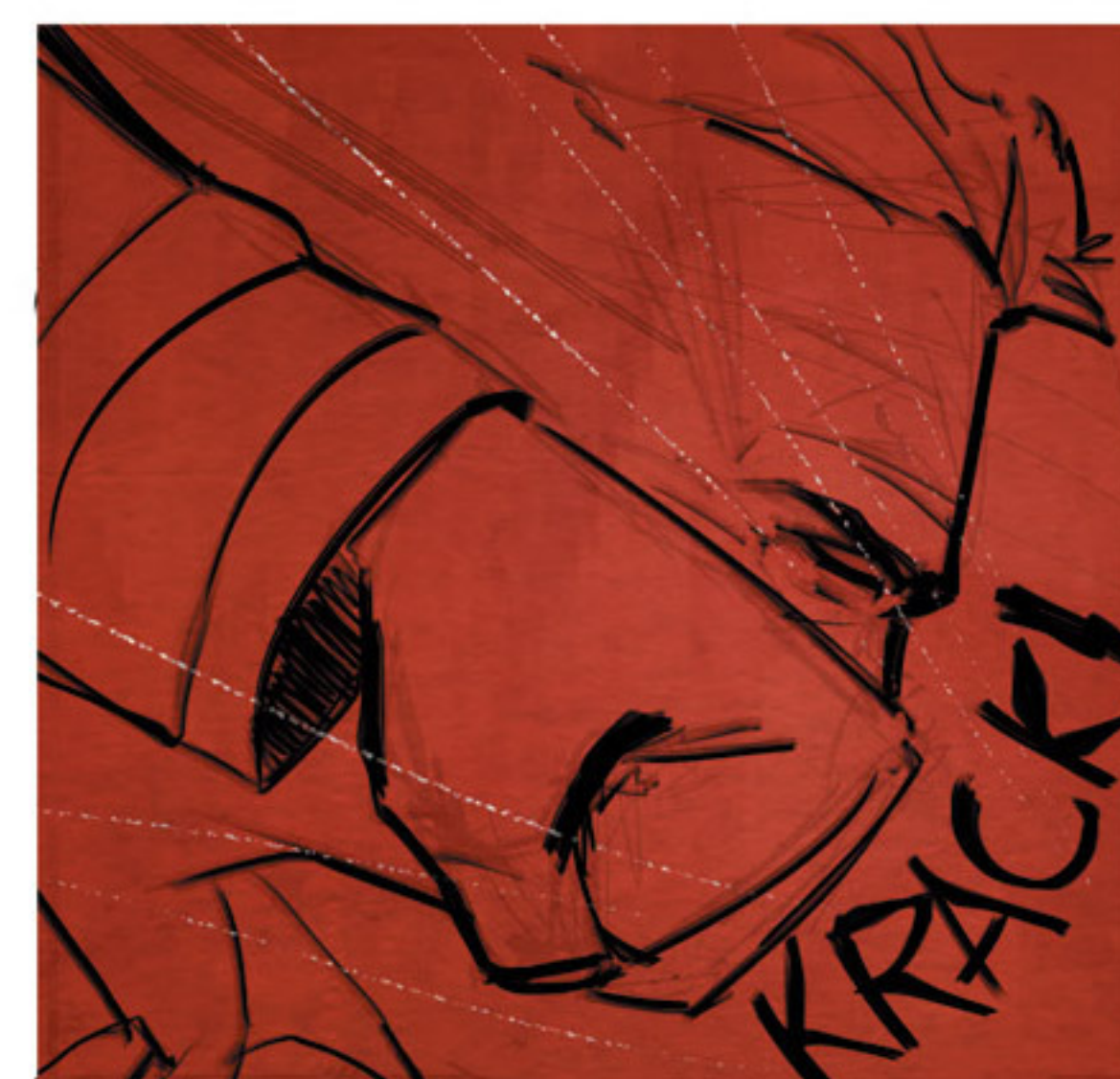
HOLY
HELL,
TOM...



BITOFA
ROUGH
NIGHT.









CENTRAL 01-NEAR NORTH SIDE
C.O.W.L. HEADQUARTERS



YOU
KNOW WE'RE
ON STRIKE,
RIGHT?



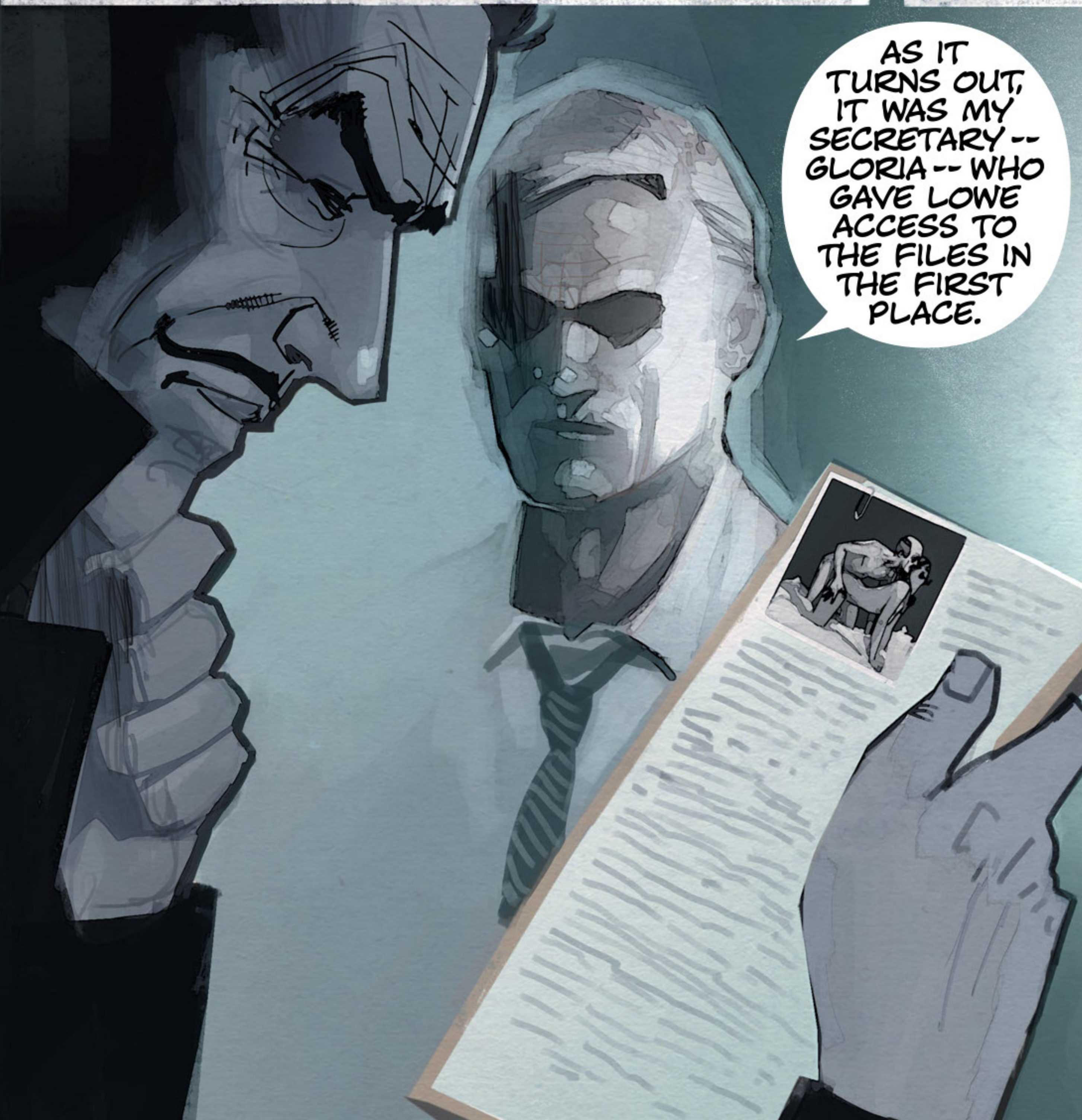
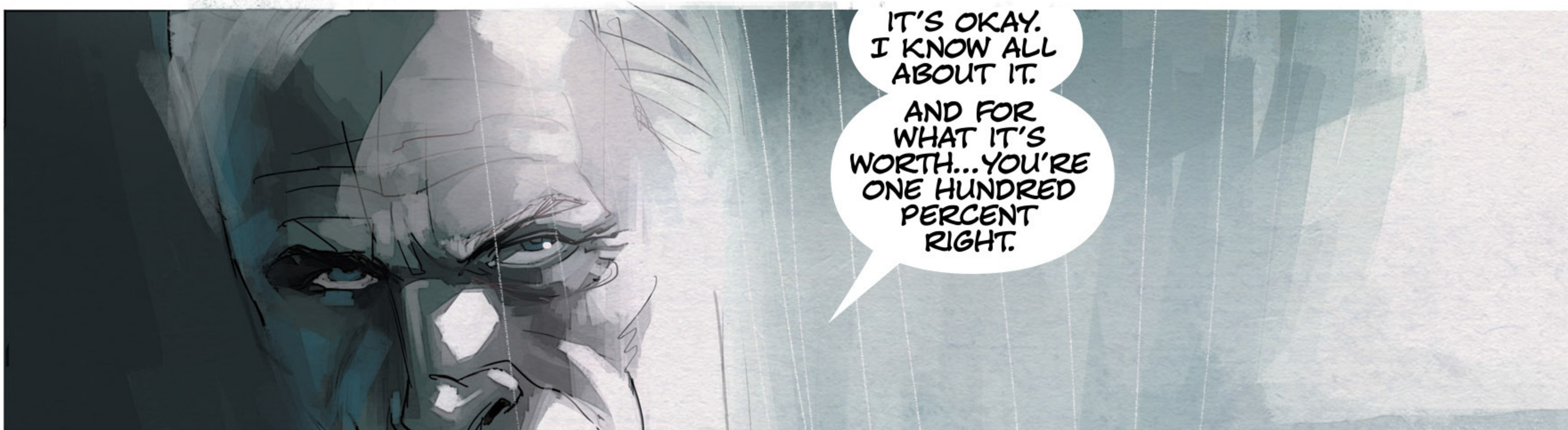
I'D
HEARD THAT
RUMOR...

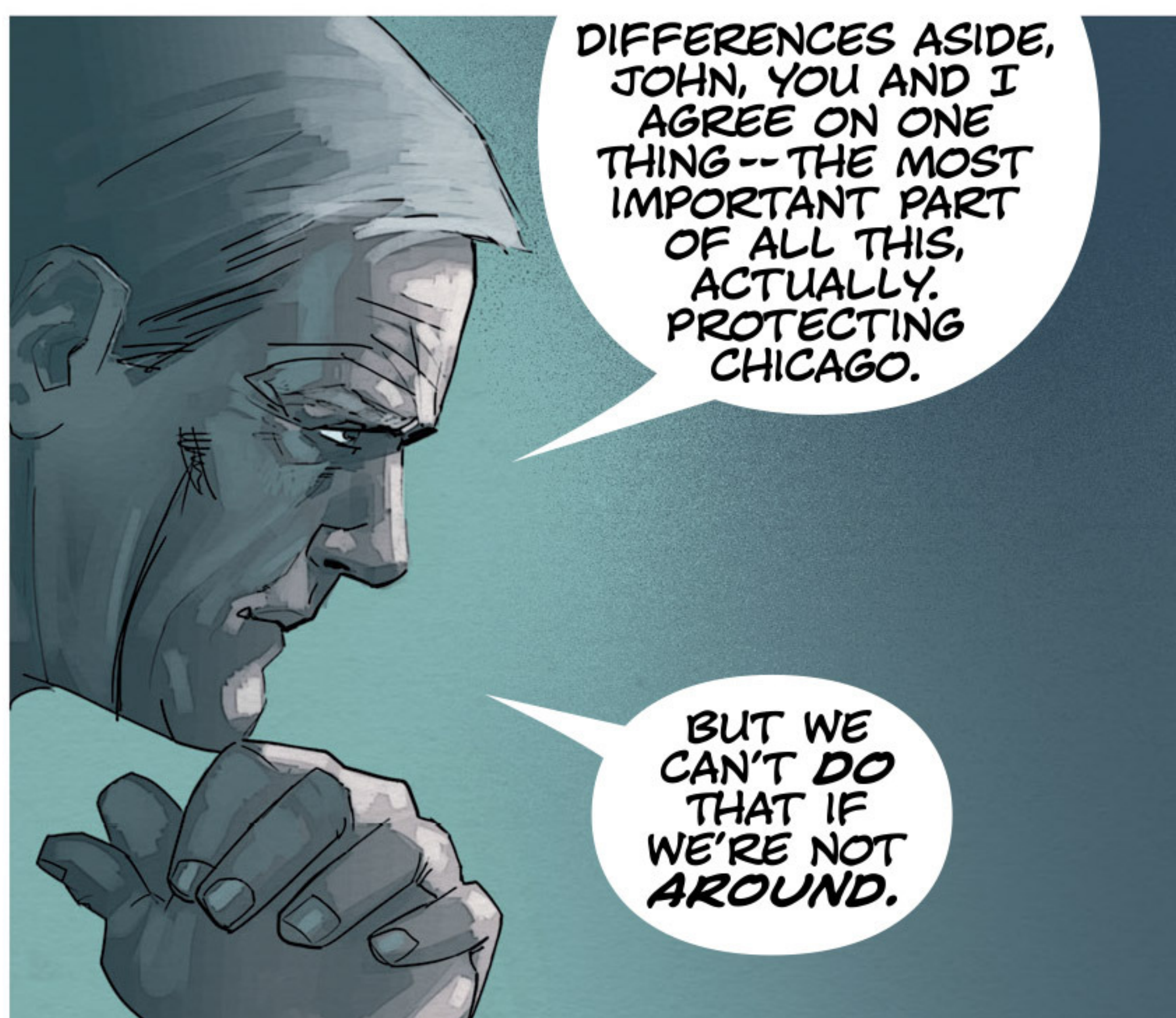
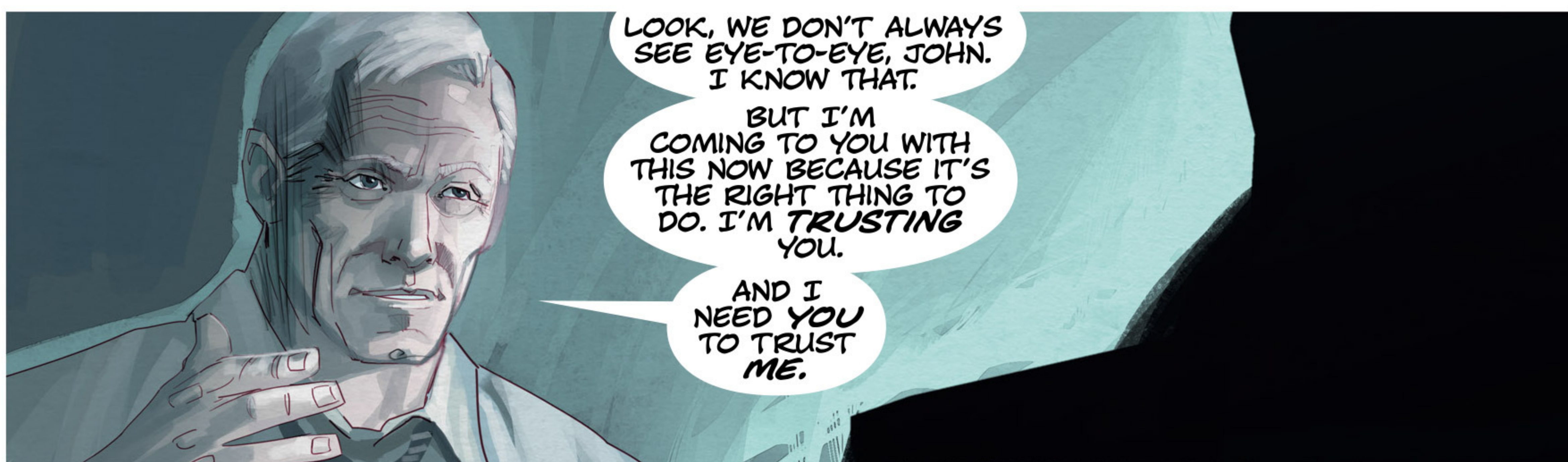
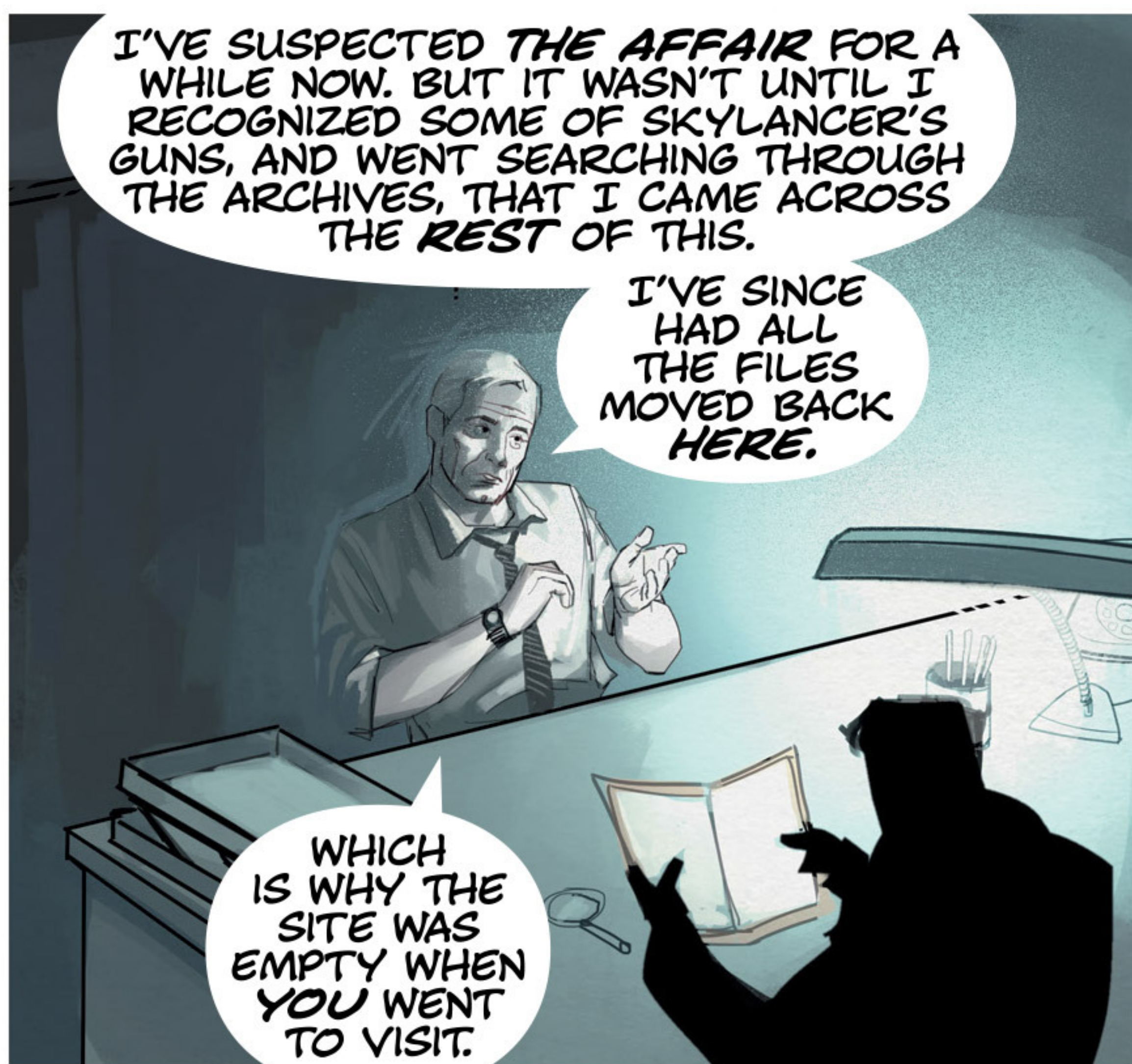
I'M
SURPRISED
YOU'RE IN
HERE.

AH, I
JUST HAD A
FEW THINGS TO
FILE BEFORE
I HEADED
DOWN TO THE
LINE.



ABOUT YOUR
INVESTIGATION?
AND THE OFF-SITE
ARCHIVES?





BUT UNLESS
YOUR NAME'S JIM
MACAULEY, YOU
GOT NO REASON
FOR THIS KINDA
PAIN.

KRAKK

GAHH!

SLAM

WE DON'T
CARE ABOUT
THE GAMBLING.
WE ONLY
WANT
MACAULEY.

OOF!

WHAMM

YEAH.
THE SOONER YOU
PEOPLE GIVE HIM AND
HIS SHITTY FORCE-
FIELD UP, THE SOONER
YOU GO BACK TO
BLACKJACK
AND--

YOU WANT ME,
MOTHERFUCKER?!

MY FUCKIN'
PLEASURE!

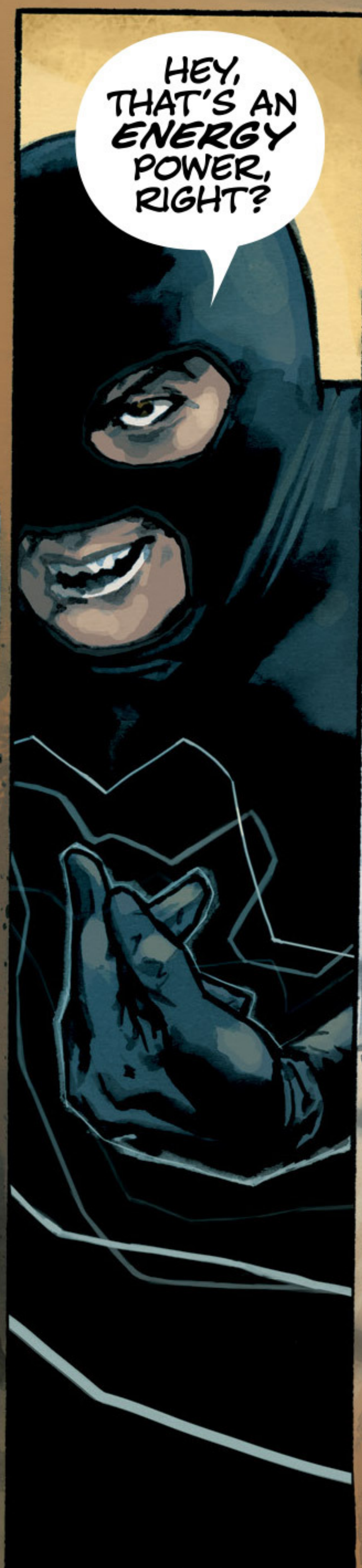
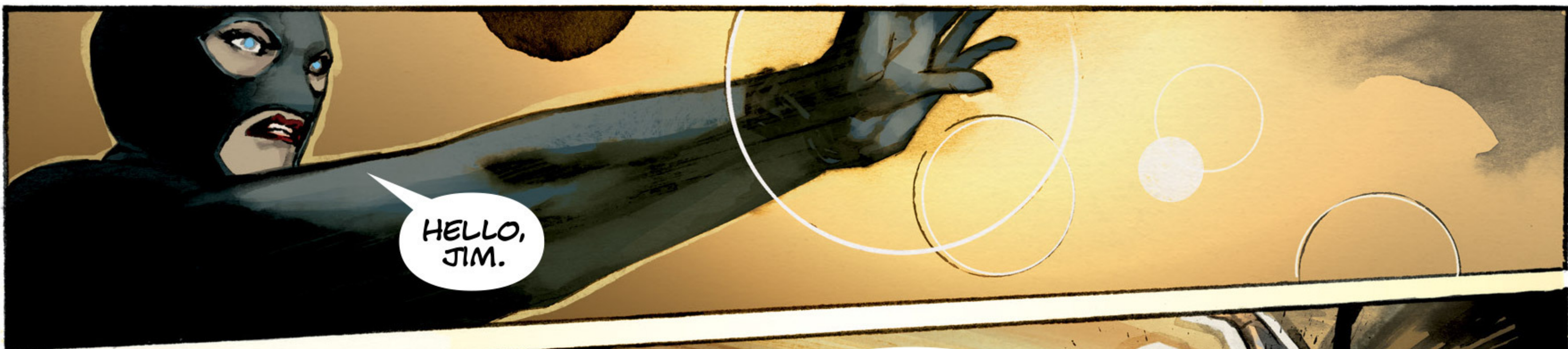
NNG!

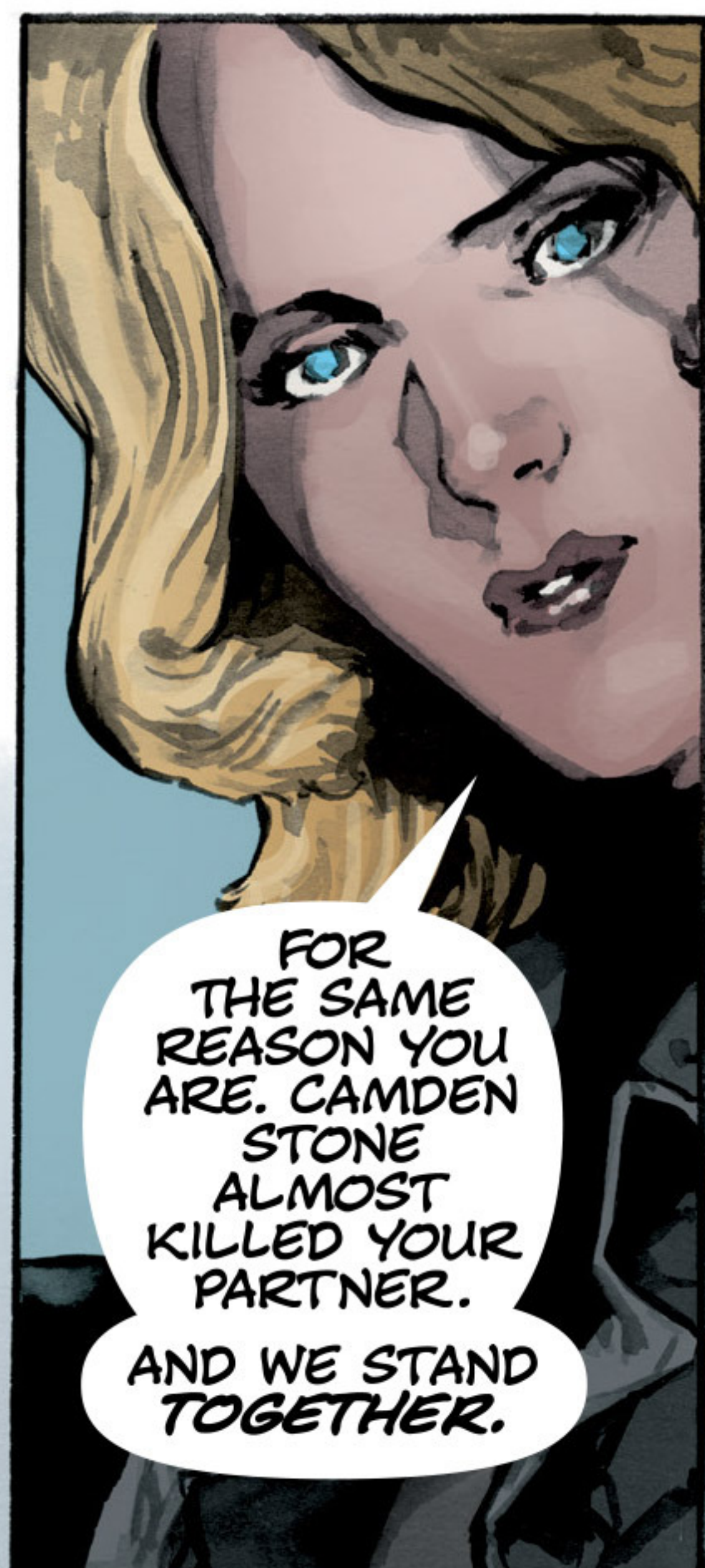
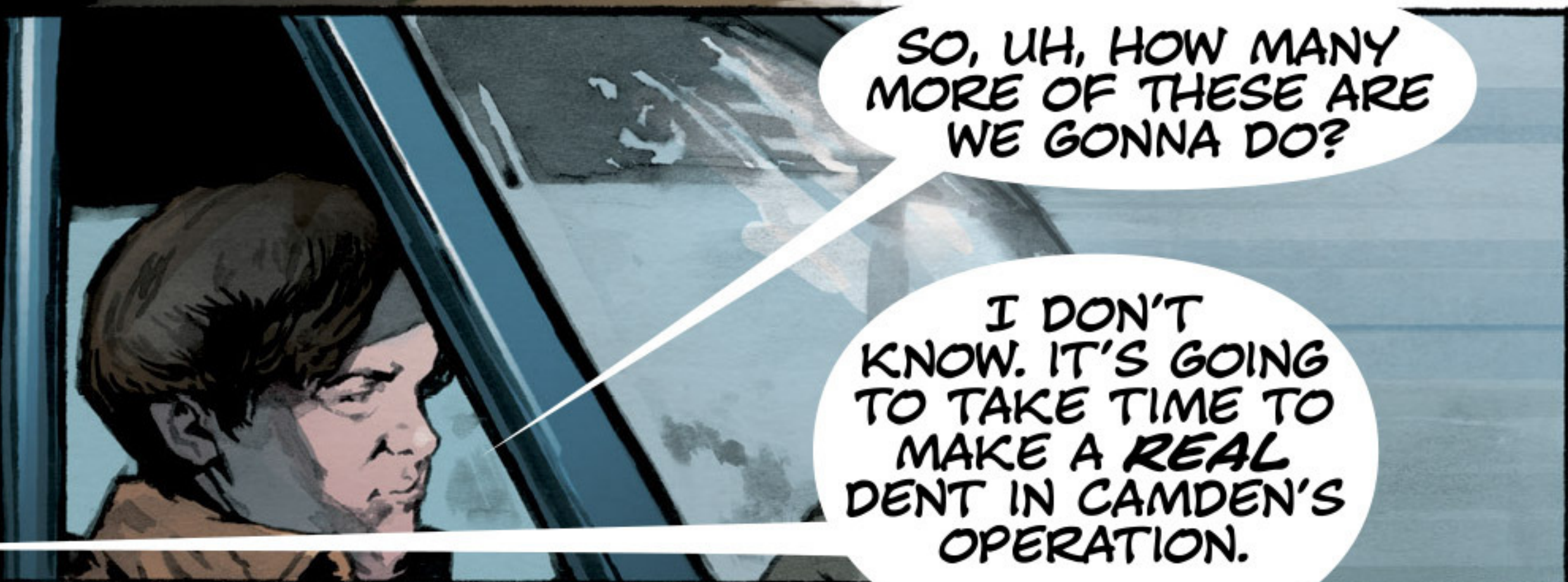
CRACK

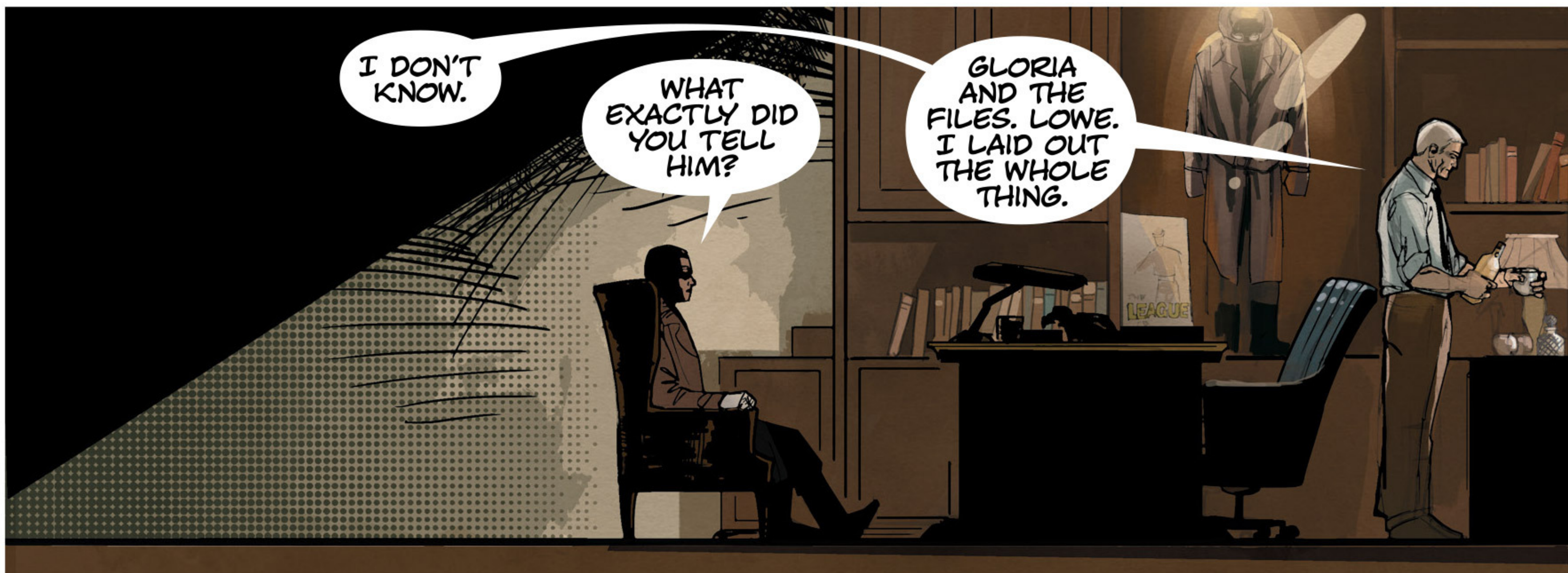
GHN!

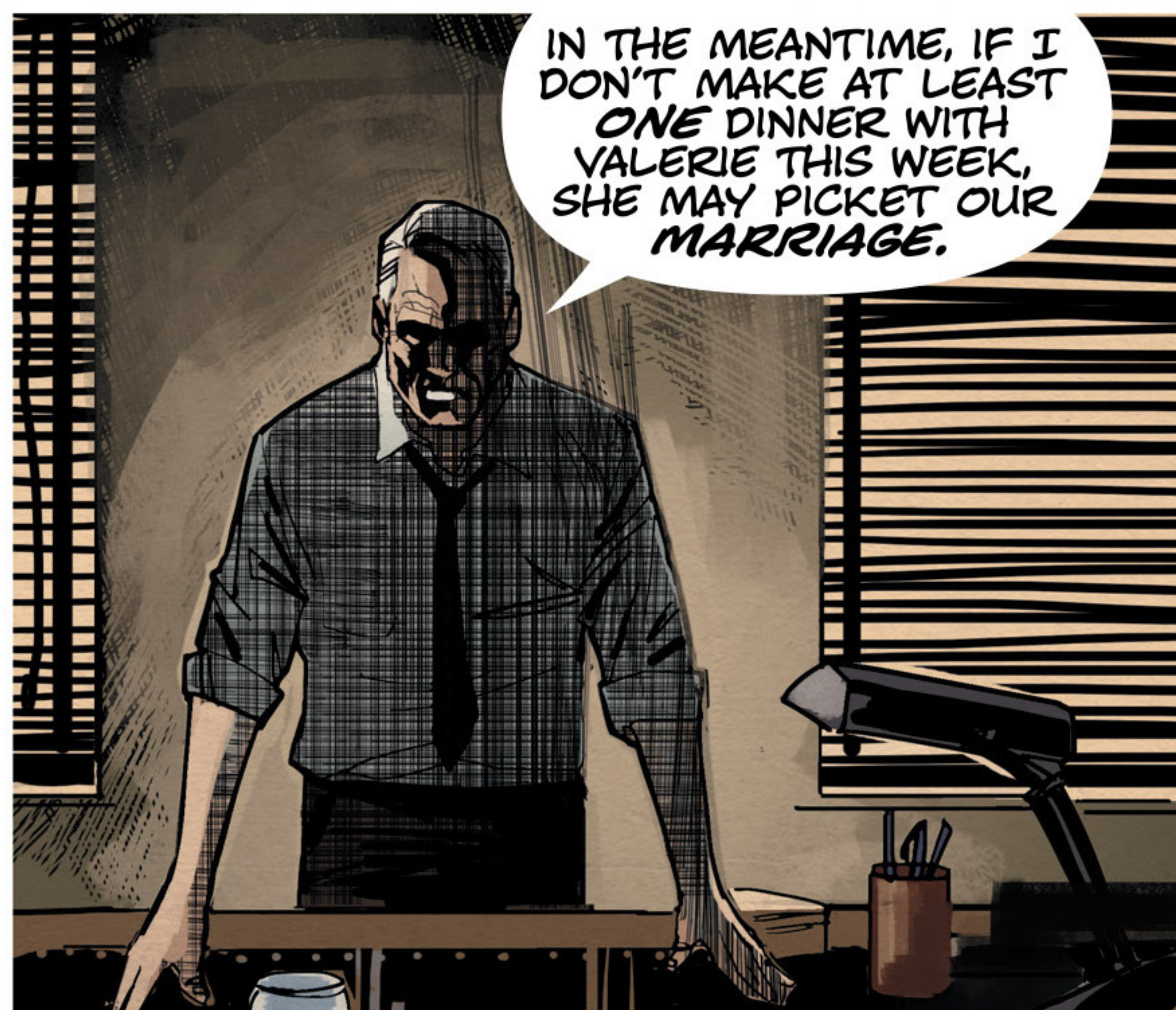
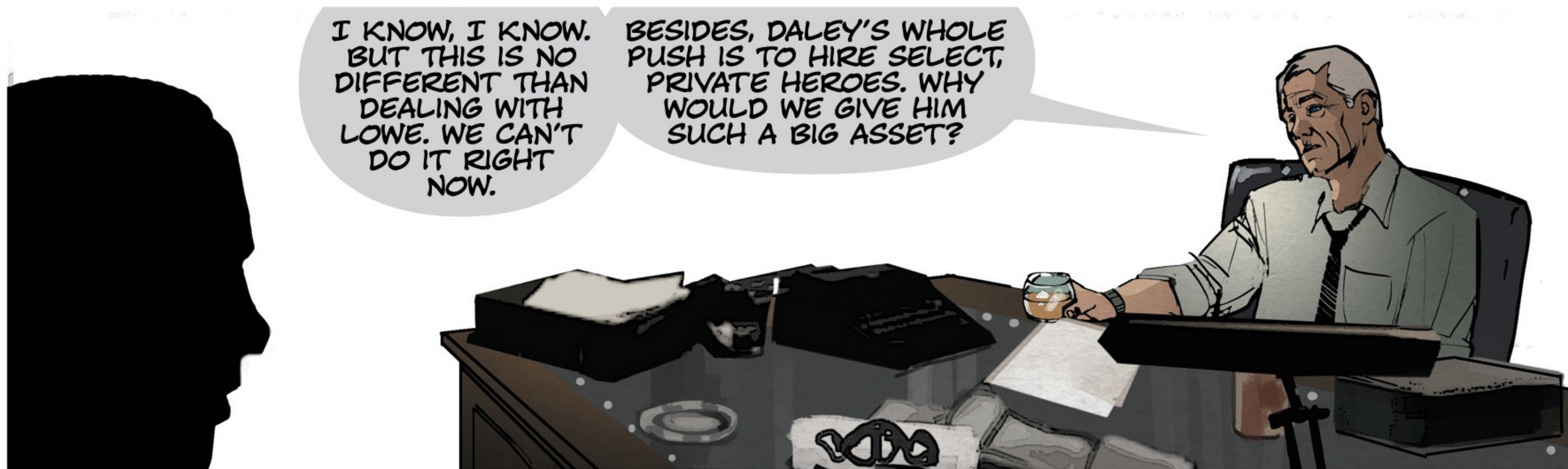
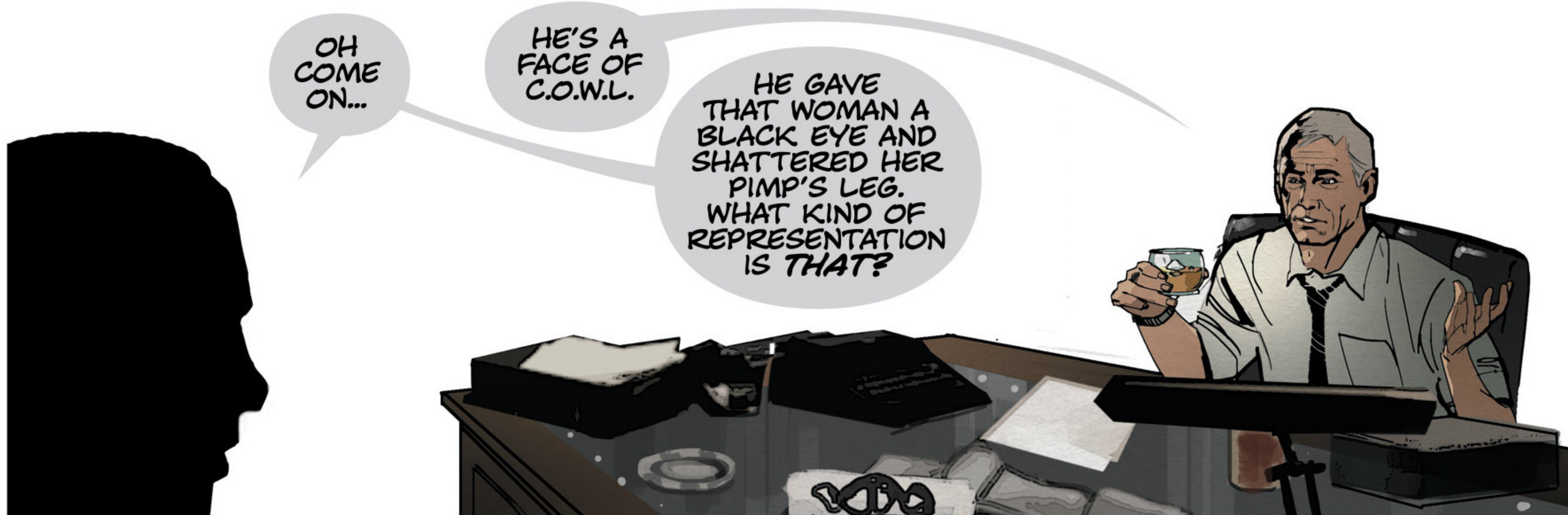
AGHH!

KRAKK









LET ME KNOW
IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING ELSE.

SOMEBODY
GOT HERE
LATE.

FINALLY GIVE UP ON
STALKING MITCHELL?
YOU'RE ABOUT A
HUNDRED AND FIFTY
POUNDS HEAVIER
THAN *HER* TYPE.

YEAH,
YEAH.
FUCK
YOU. I'M
HERE
NOW.

IT'S OKAY.
YOU DIDN'T
MISS MUCH
BESIDES--

SHAME ON
CHICAGO

ON
STRIKE

NO M
NO SA

ON
STRIKE

HEY, DON'T
LET THEM
THROUGH!

THEY
WORK
FOR CITY
HALL!

Booooo

THAT
GUY'S AN
ALDERMAN!

P-PLEASE...
WE'RE JUST
TRYING TO
GET TO OUR
CARS...

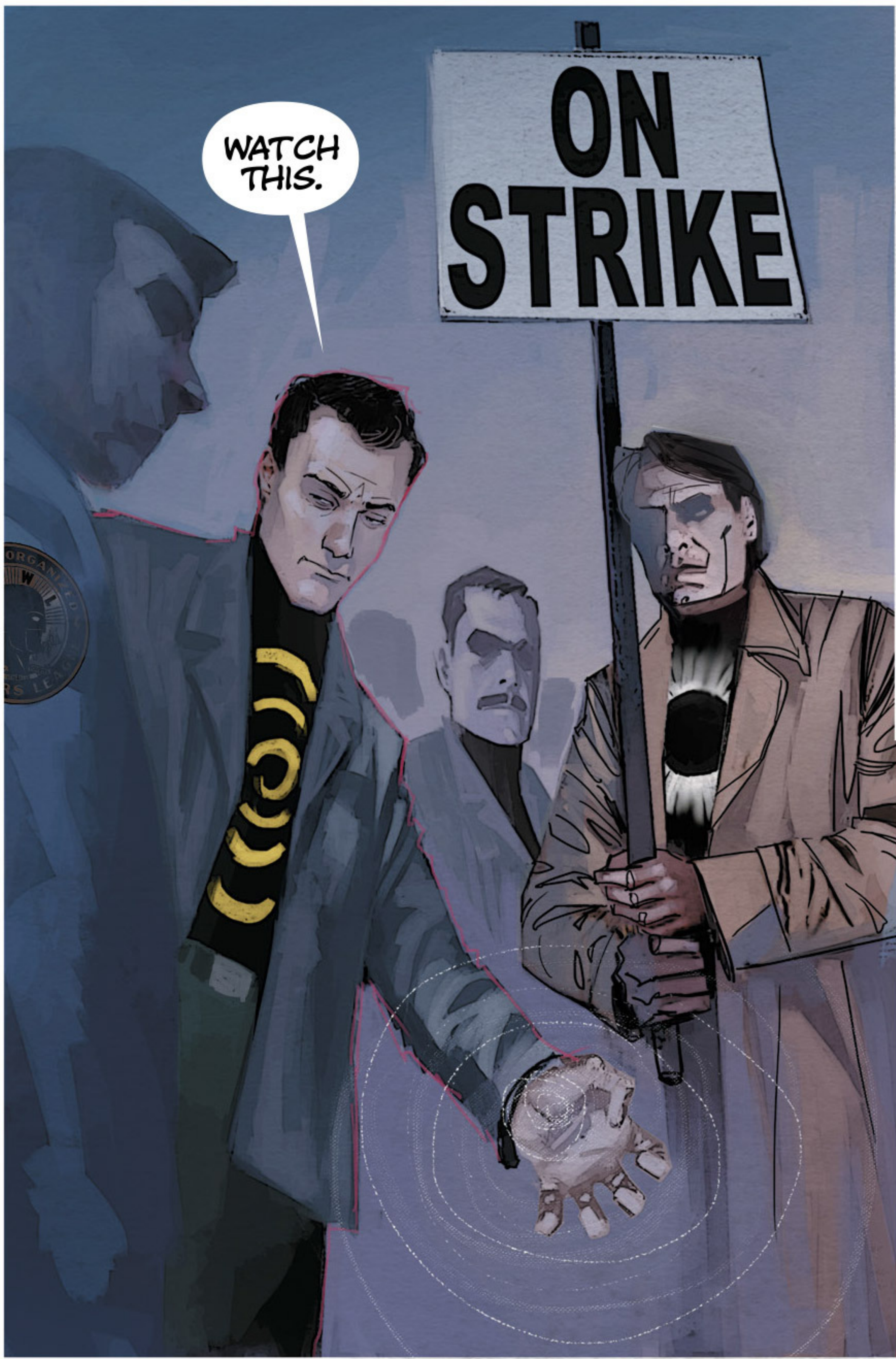
YOU
ASSHOLES
WENT OUT
THE **WRONG**
DOOR!

SHAME ON
CHICAGO

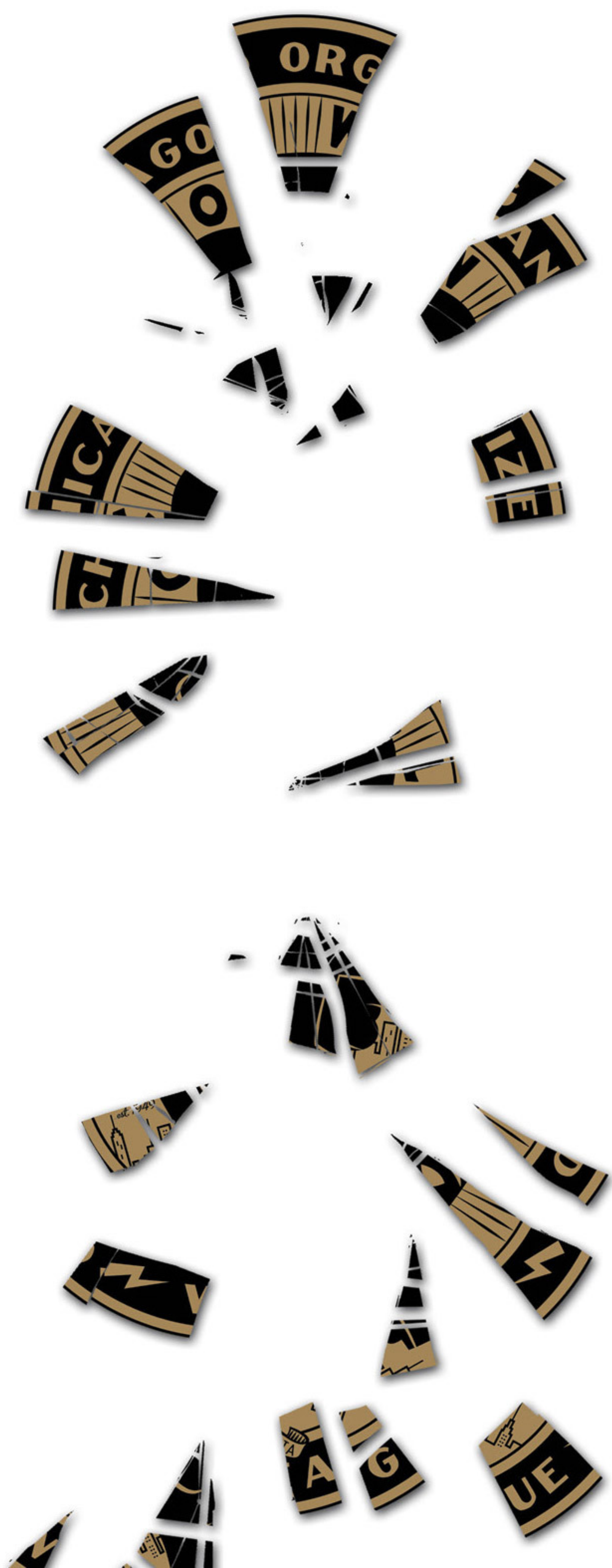
WE
SUPPORT
COWL

ON
STRIKE

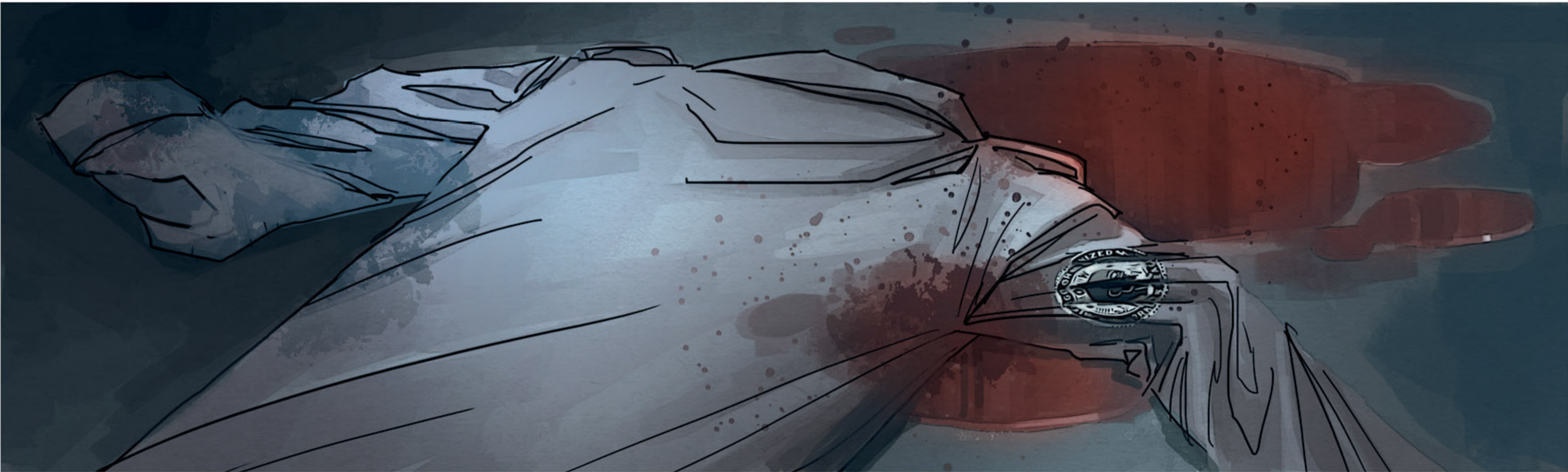




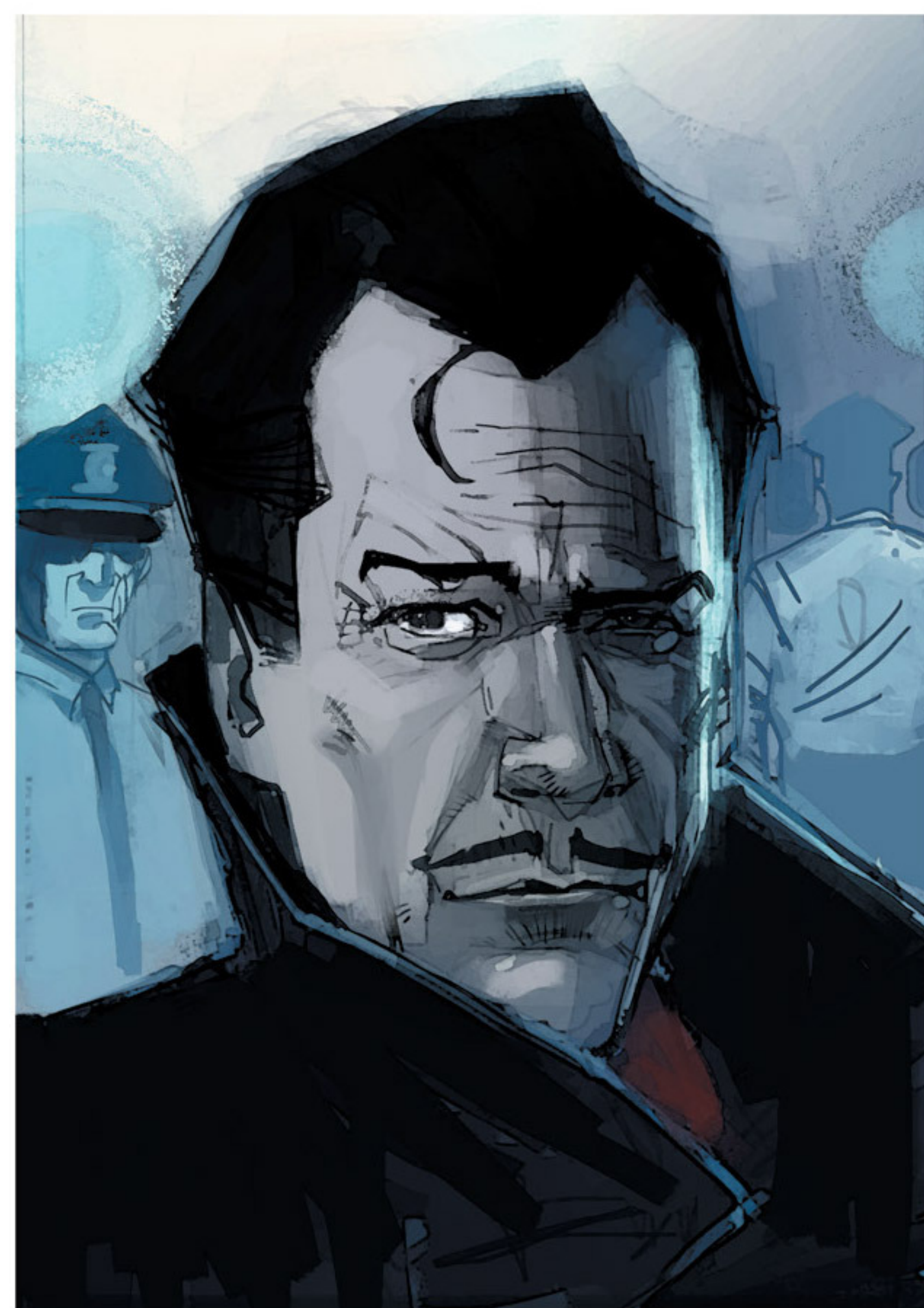
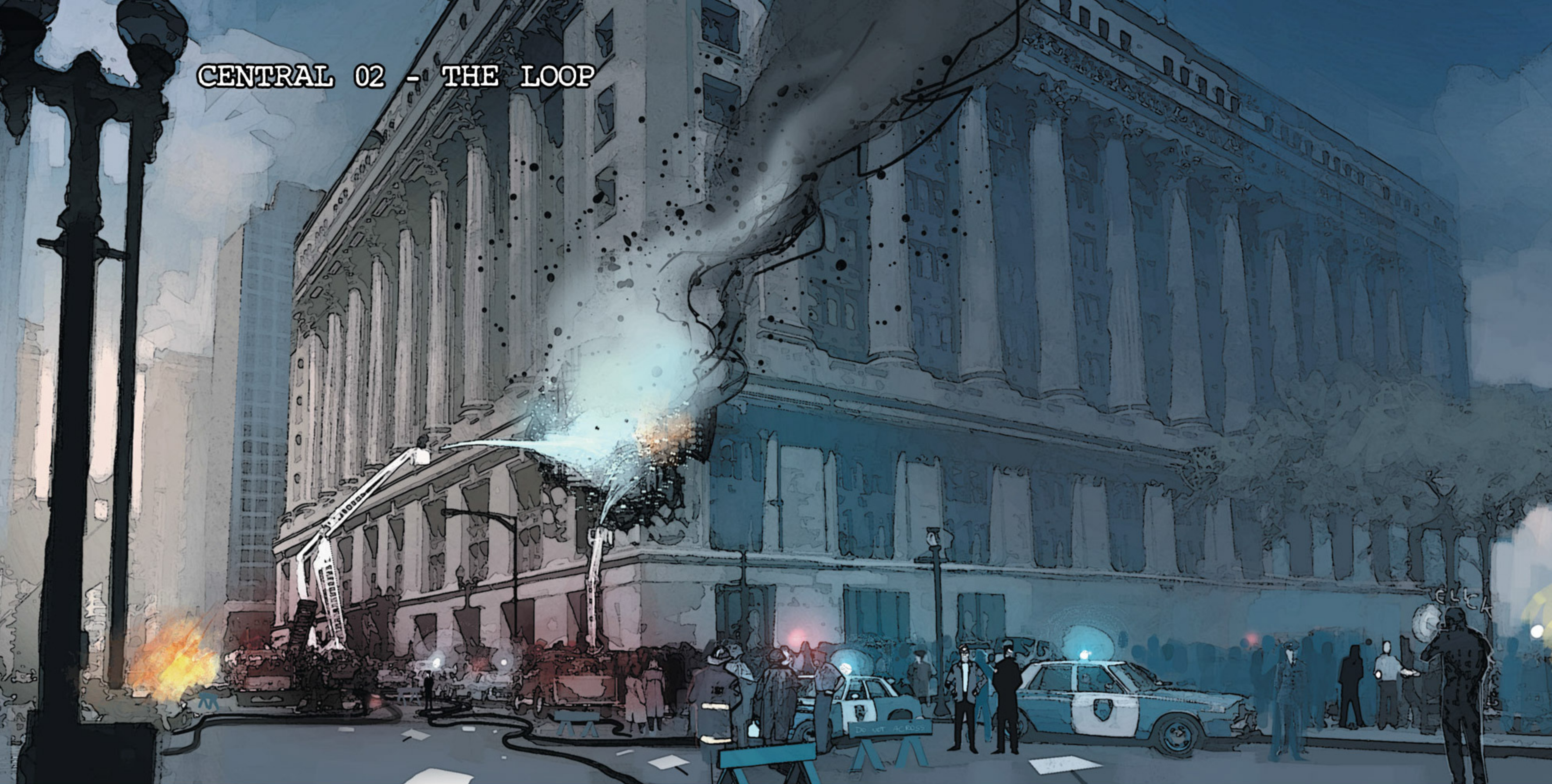


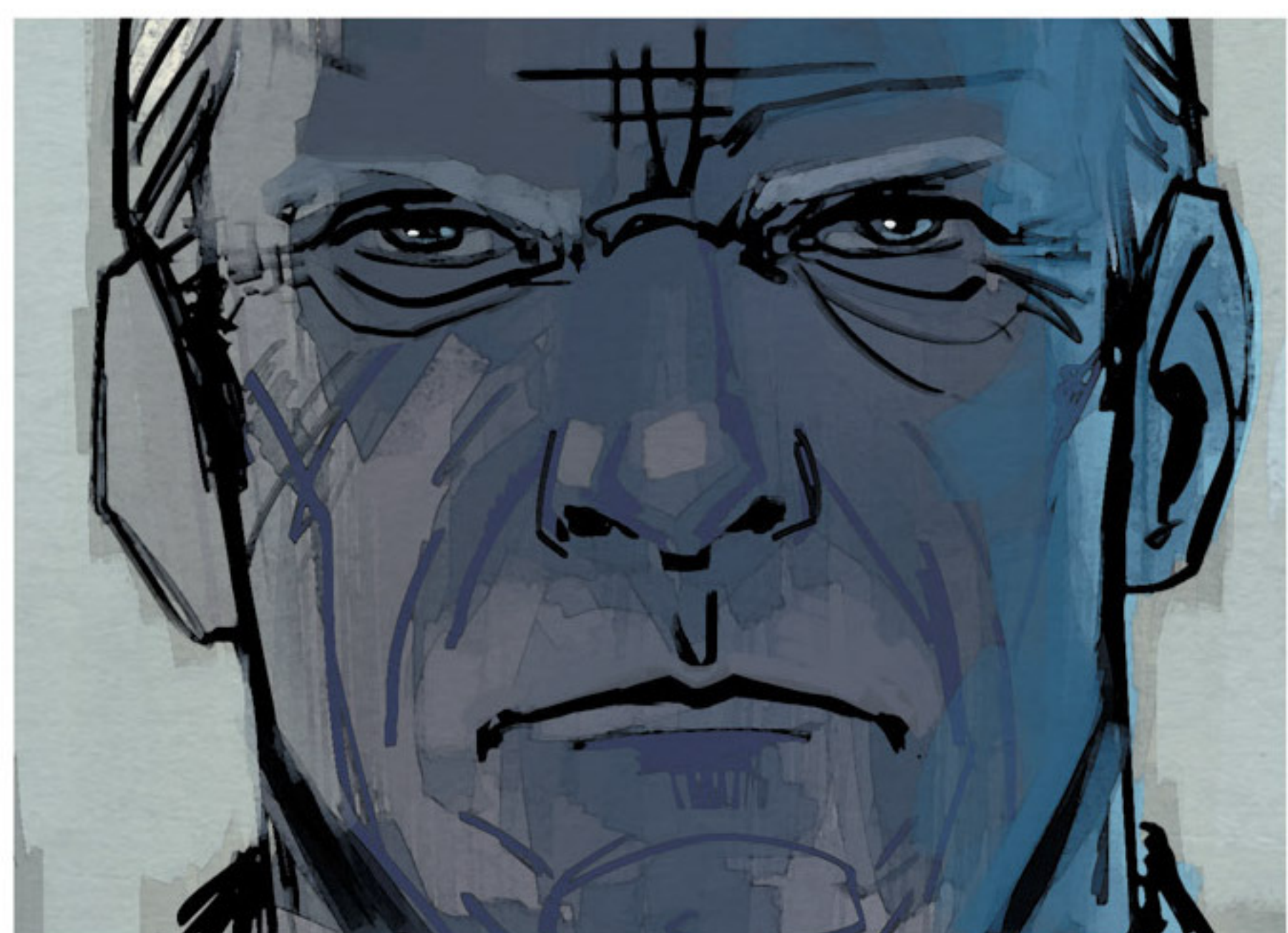






CENTRAL 02 - THE LOOP

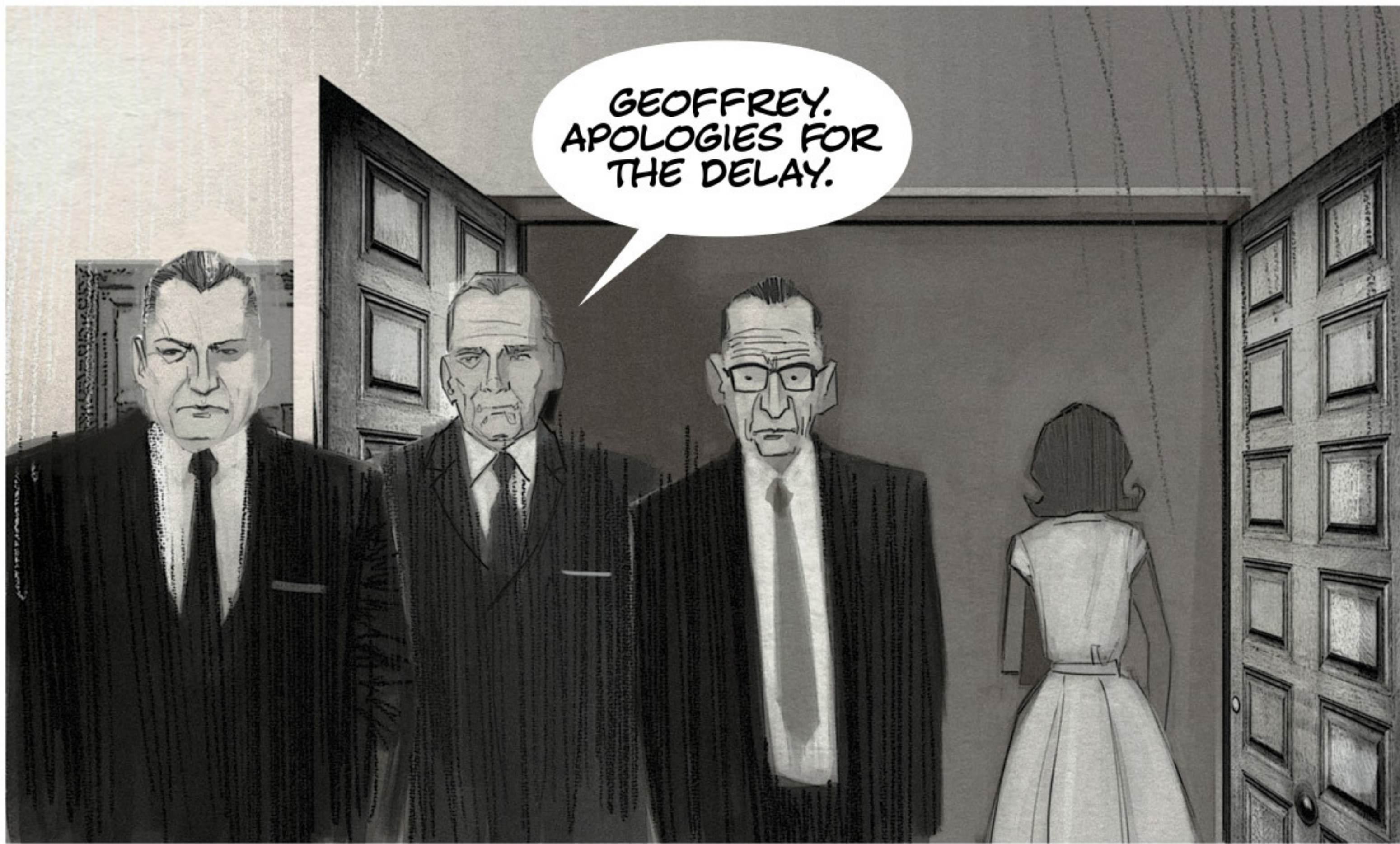
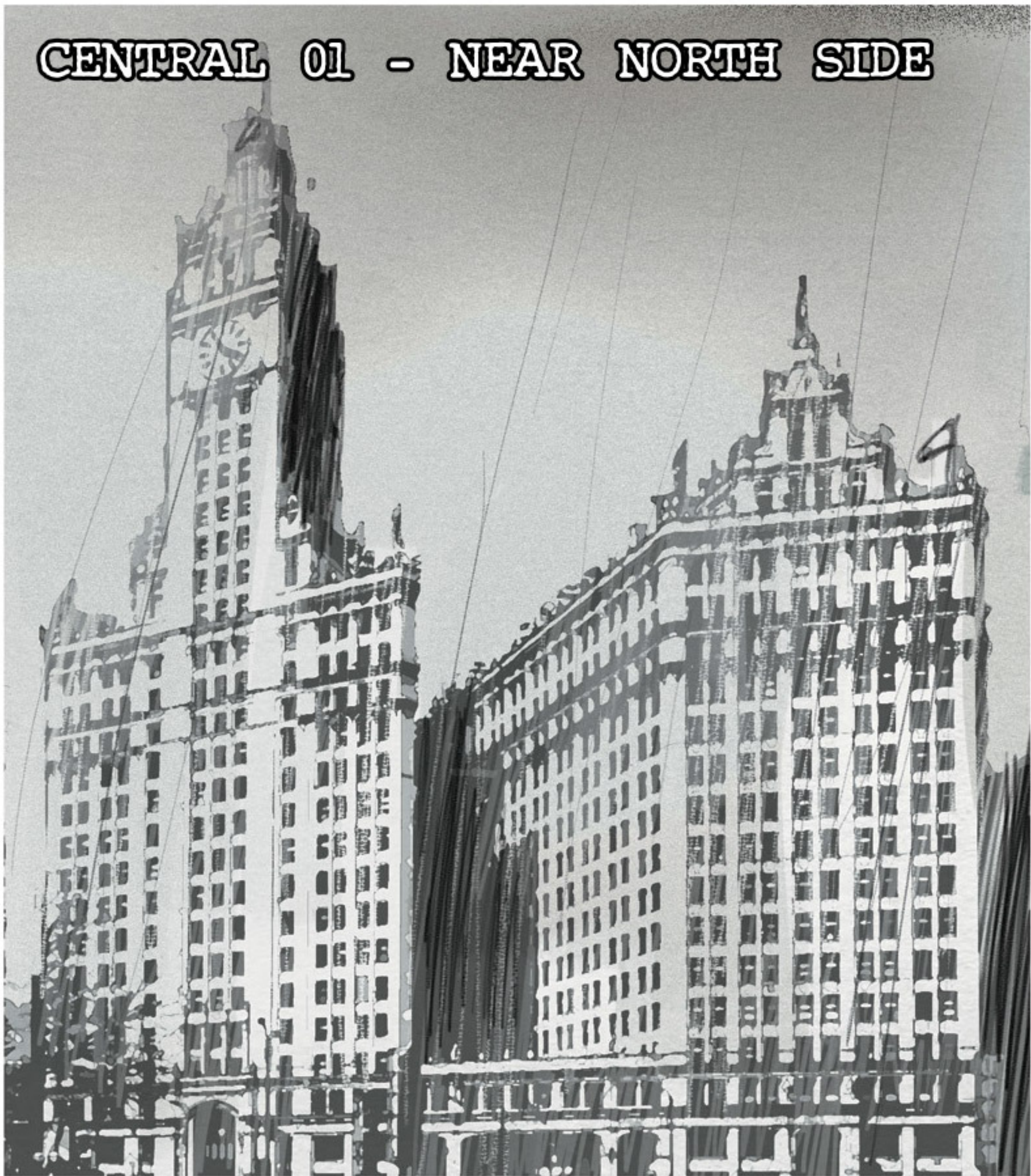






CHAPTER 5

Sacrifice



YOU HAVE A LOT OF DUCKS TO LINE UP, SO WE'LL KEEP THIS SHORT.

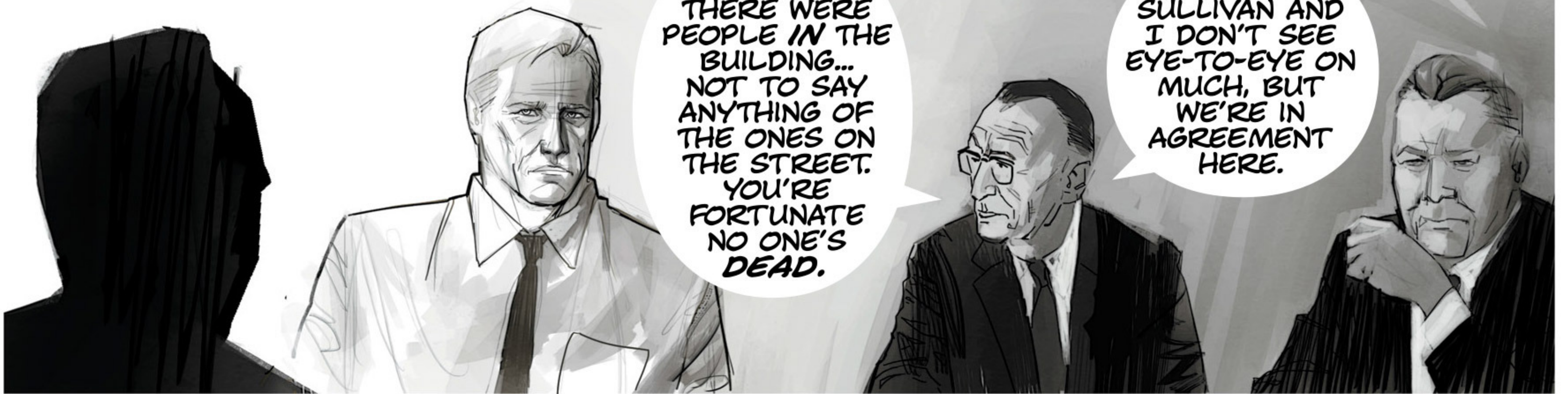
THE BRICKLAYERS AND RAIL WORKERS ARE OUT, AND AFTER TALKING TO JOHN AND BILL HERE... BOTH THE TEACHERS AND SERVICE EMPLOYEES ARE PULLING THEIR SUPPORT, TOO.



WHAT?

THERE WERE PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING... NOT TO SAY ANYTHING OF THE ONES ON THE STREET. YOU'RE FORTUNATE NO ONE'S DEAD.

SULLIVAN AND I DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON MUCH, BUT WE'RE IN AGREEMENT HERE.



AND I'M SURE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MAYOR HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

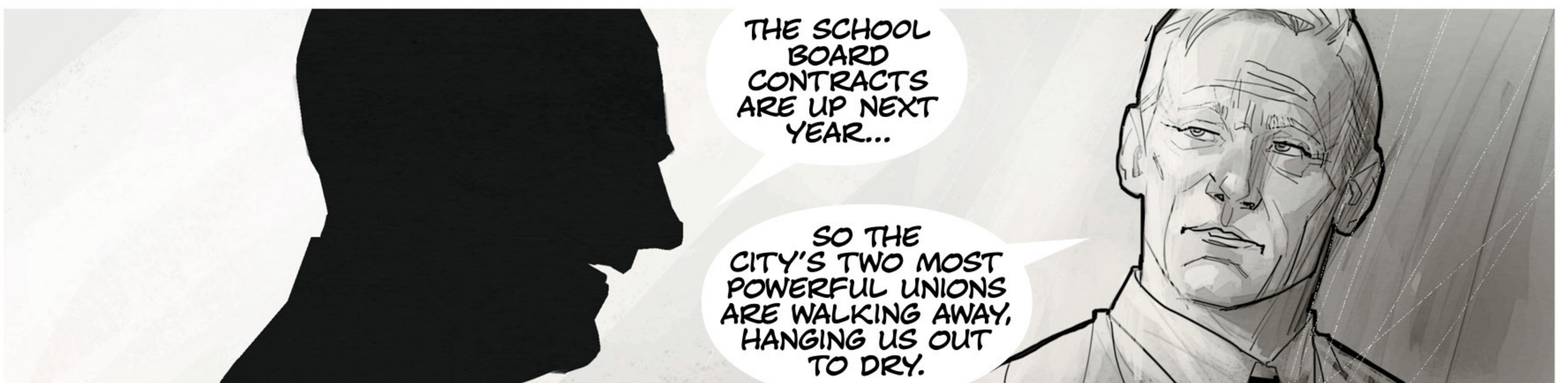
TAKE IT HOWEVER YOU'D LIKE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, JOHN?

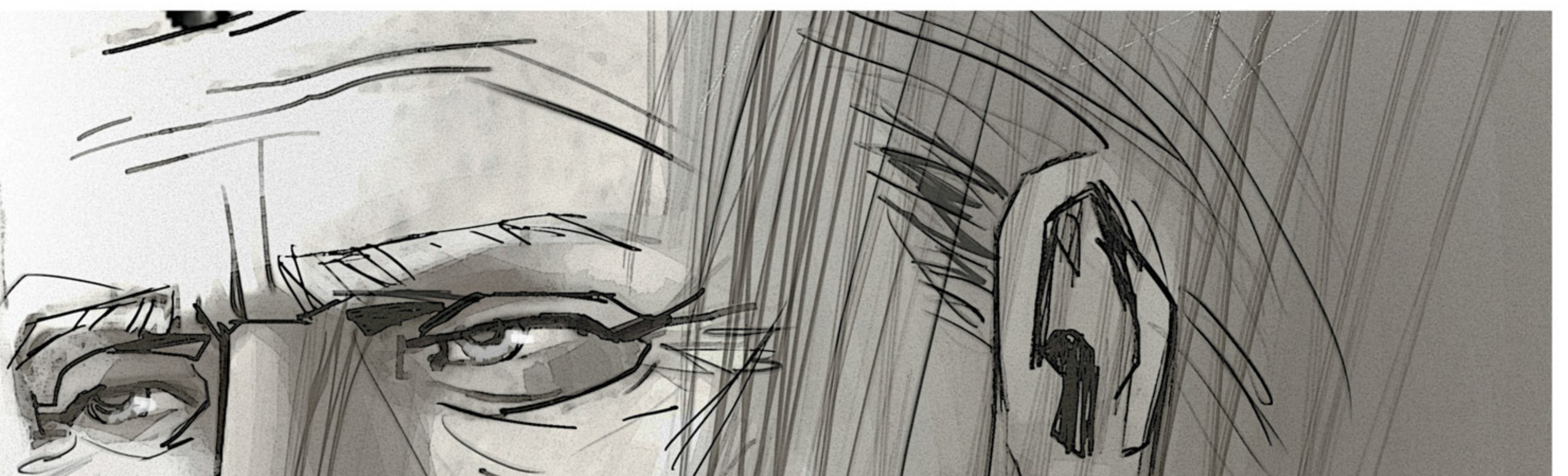


THE SCHOOL BOARD CONTRACTS ARE UP NEXT YEAR...

SO THE CITY'S TWO MOST POWERFUL UNIONS ARE WALKING AWAY, HANGING US OUT TO DRY.



WHAT GOOD IS HAVING A LABOR FEDERATION IF WE'RE NOT ALL IN IT TOGETHER?





WE NEED TO
MOVE SOON.



WE DON'T WANT TO
GIVE GEOFFREY TIME
TO PREPARE. OR HIDE
ANYTHING ELSE.

YOU
ALREADY HAVE
THE SKYLANCER
FILE. DO WE
REALLY NEED
THE ONE HE
SHOWED YOU,
TOO?

TO TIE
EVERYTHING
TO GLORIA AND
ALDERMAN
LOWE, YES.



I HAVE A
CONTACT AT CPD.
GETTING THEM
TO START AN
INVESTIGATION
WILL BE THE
PRIORITY.



THEY'RE
GONNA LOVE YOU
OVER THERE,
JOHN. YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO PICK ANY
DETAIL YOU
WANT.

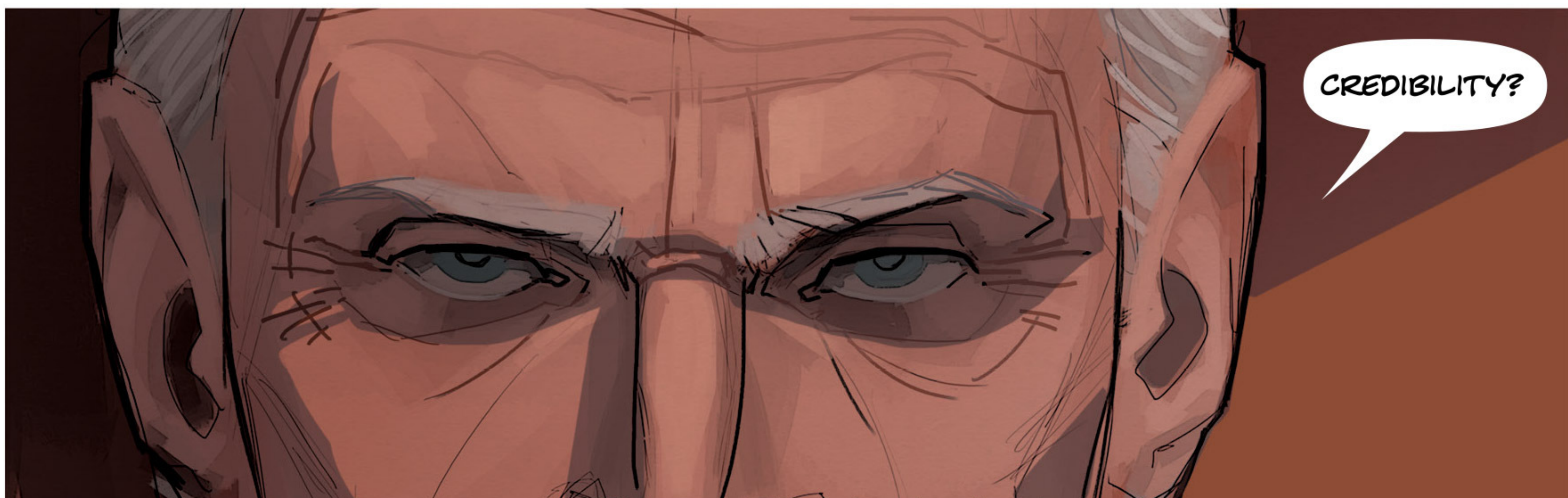
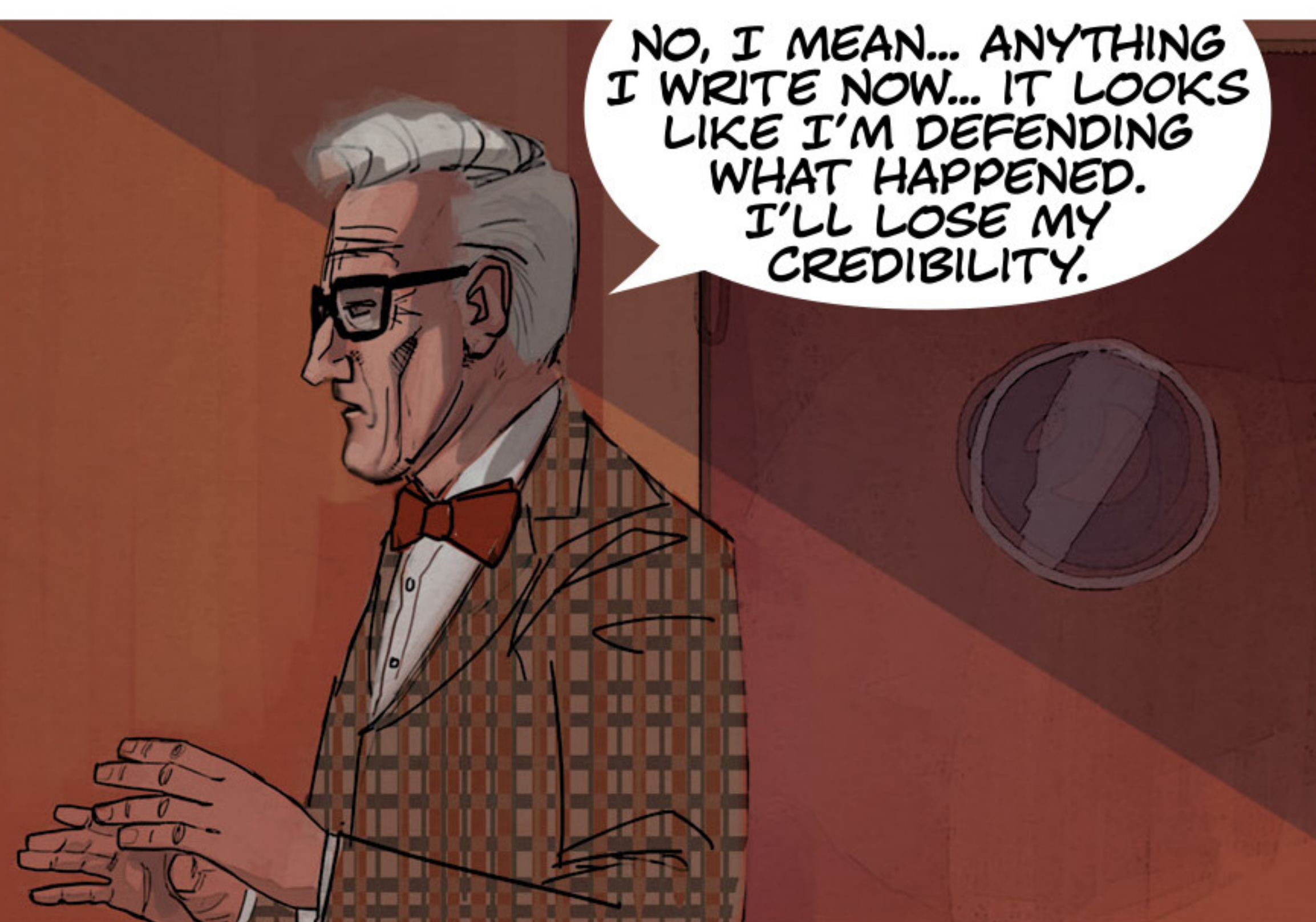
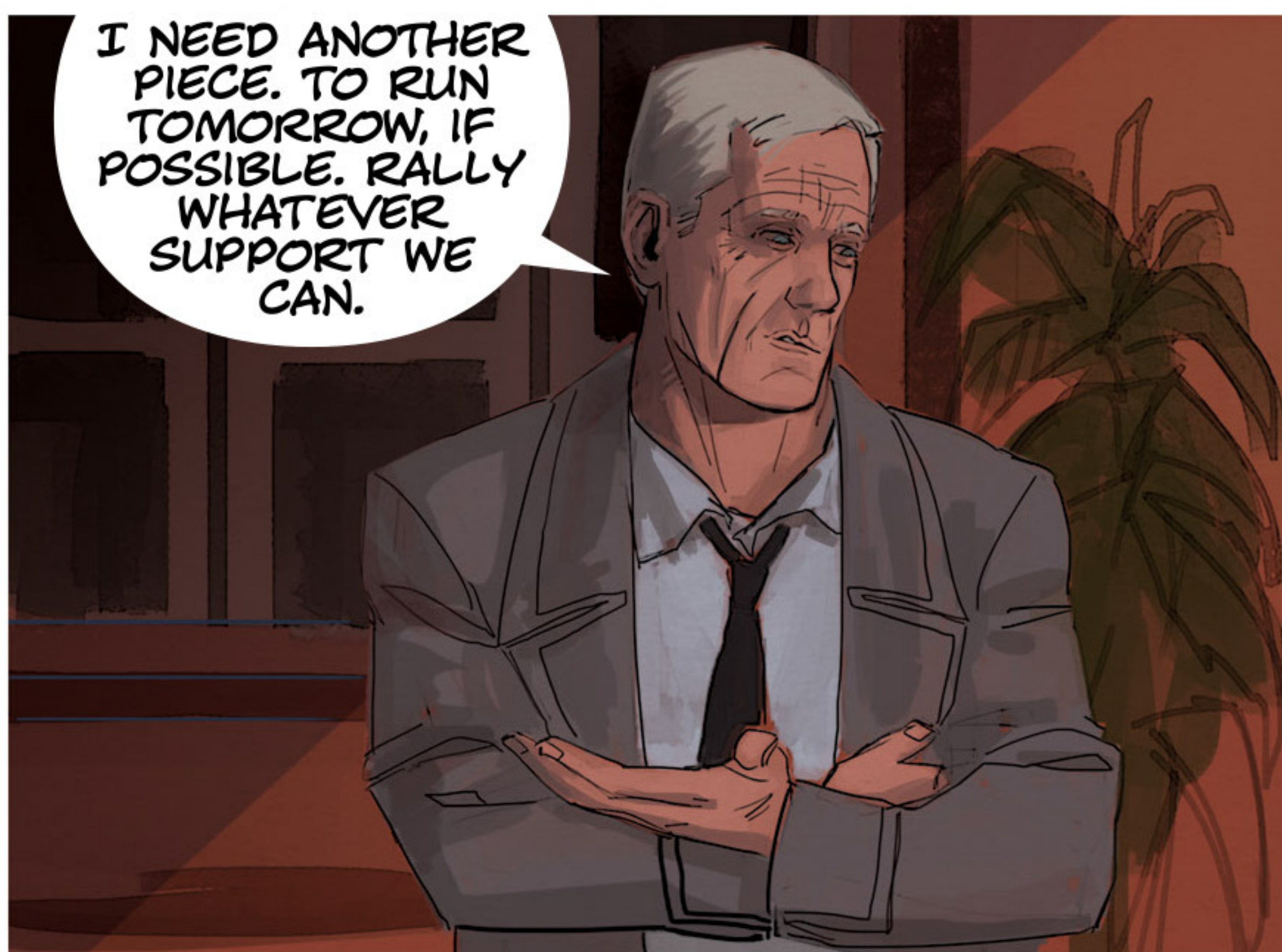


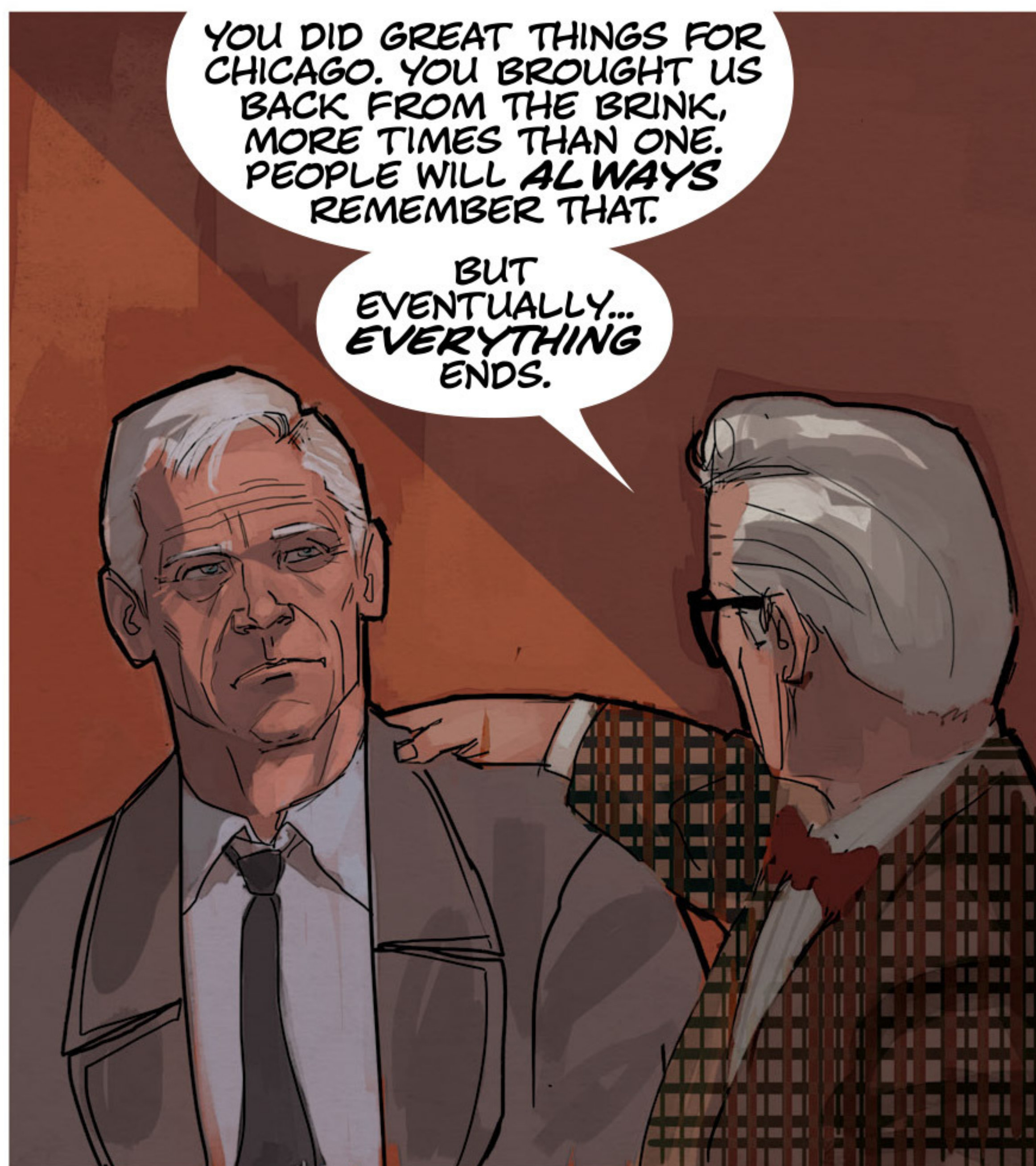
WE'LL BOTH BE
FINE. WHEN THE
DUST SETTLES, IF
DALEY STILL
WANTS TO HIRE
HEROES...



IF.







CENTRAL 01 - NEAR NORTH SIDE
C.O.W.L. HEADQUARTERS







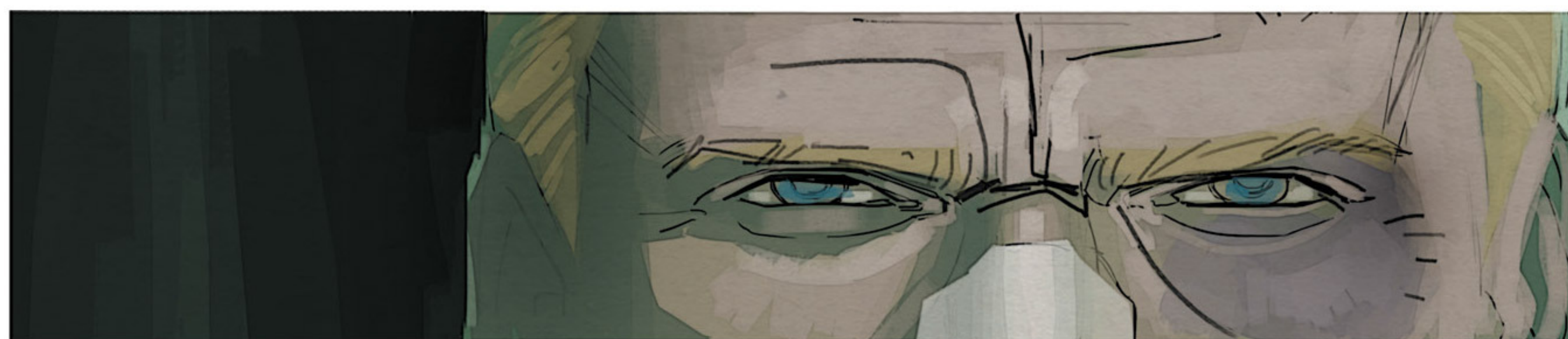
IT'S FINE. YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST. WITH ANY LUCK, YOU'LL GET TO WORK FOR THE MAYOR. WORST CASE, THERE'S ALWAYS THE MILITARY.

EVEN THOUGH WE BOTH KNOW YOU'D HATE IT.

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT, HUH?



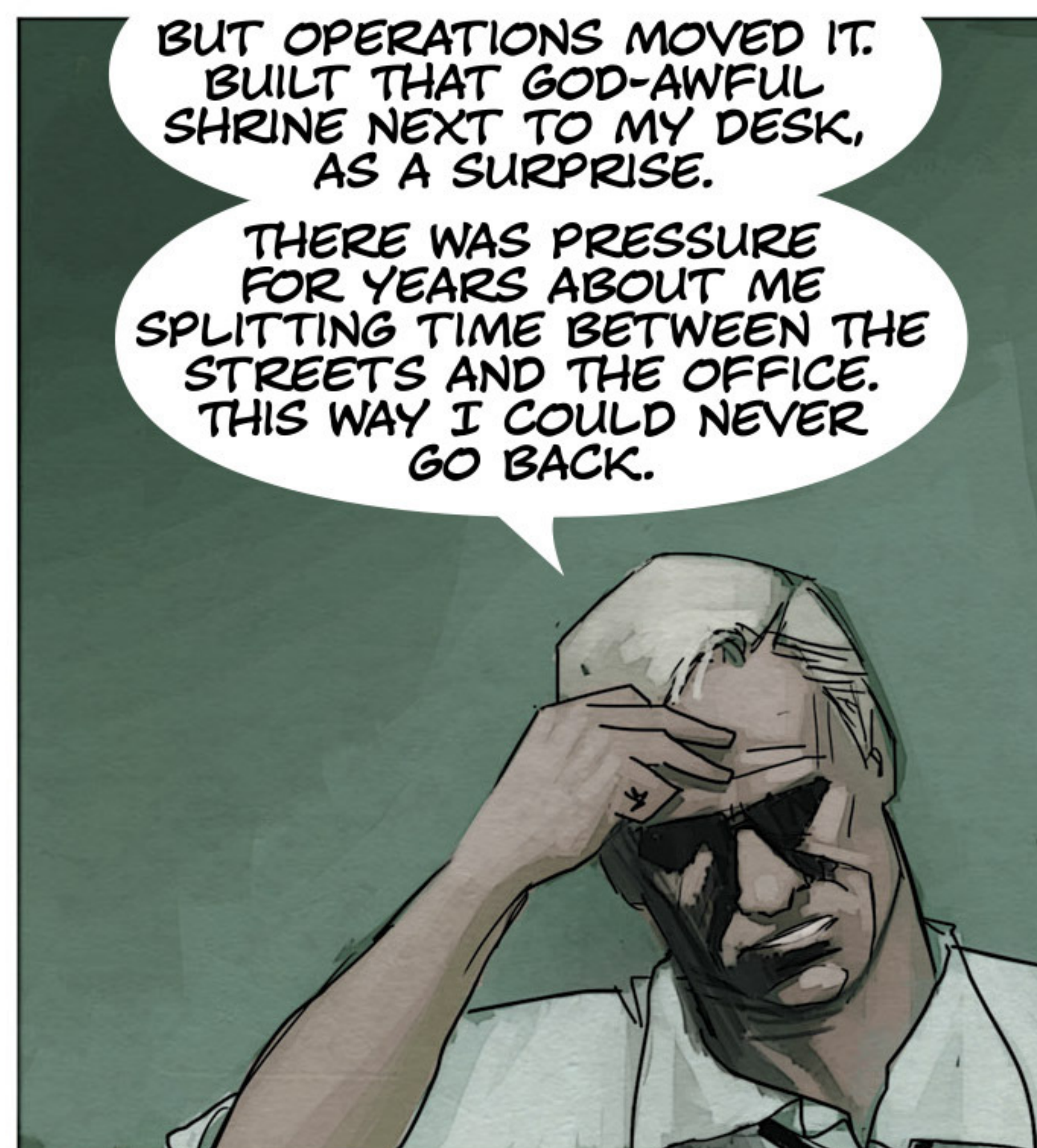
CLEARLY I DON'T.



WHY ARE YOU EVEN DOWN HERE?



I ALWAYS THOUGHT, AFTER I HUNG UP THE RAVEN SUIT... IT'D STAY DOWN HERE. WHERE IT BELONGS. A "JUST-IN-CASE" SORT OF THING.



BUT OPERATIONS MOVED IT. BUILT THAT GOD-AWFUL SHRINE NEXT TO MY DESK, AS A SURPRISE.

THERE WAS PRESSURE FOR YEARS ABOUT ME SPLITTING TIME BETWEEN THE STREETS AND THE OFFICE. THIS WAY I COULD NEVER GO BACK.

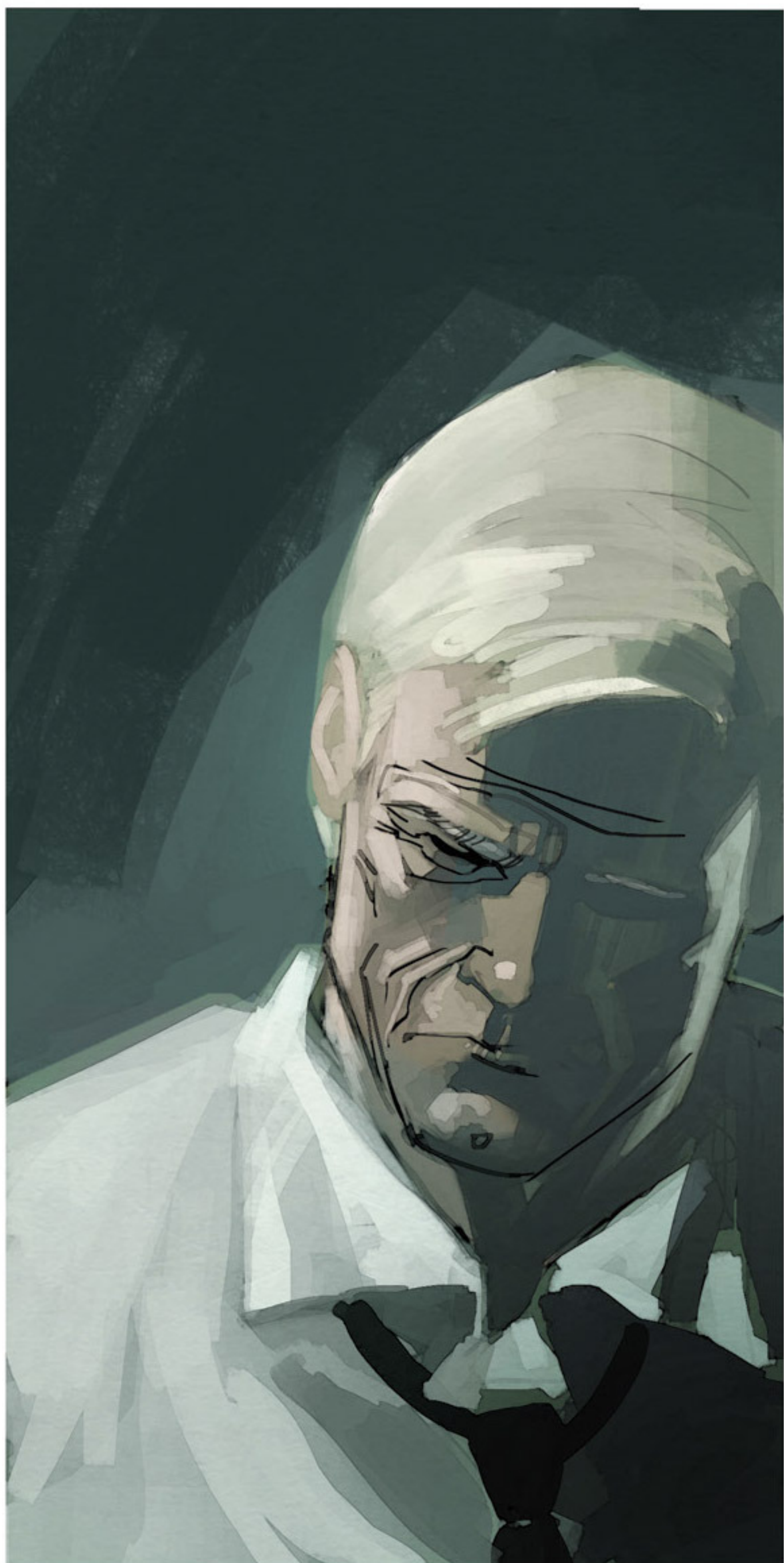


TRUTH IS, IF YOU'RE GREAT AT SOMETHING... EVENTUALLY YOU'LL GET PROMOTED OUT OF IT.

AND THEN WHAT ARE YOU?



SOMEONE WHO'S WILLING TO PUT OTHERS FIRST. TO MAKE SACRIFICES. A HERO.



YOU'VE BEEN AN ASSHOLE TO ME FOR AS LONG AS WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?



YOU'RE VERY TALENTED AT WHAT YOU DO, TOM.

I'M SORRY IF I'VE NEVER SAID THAT BEFORE.

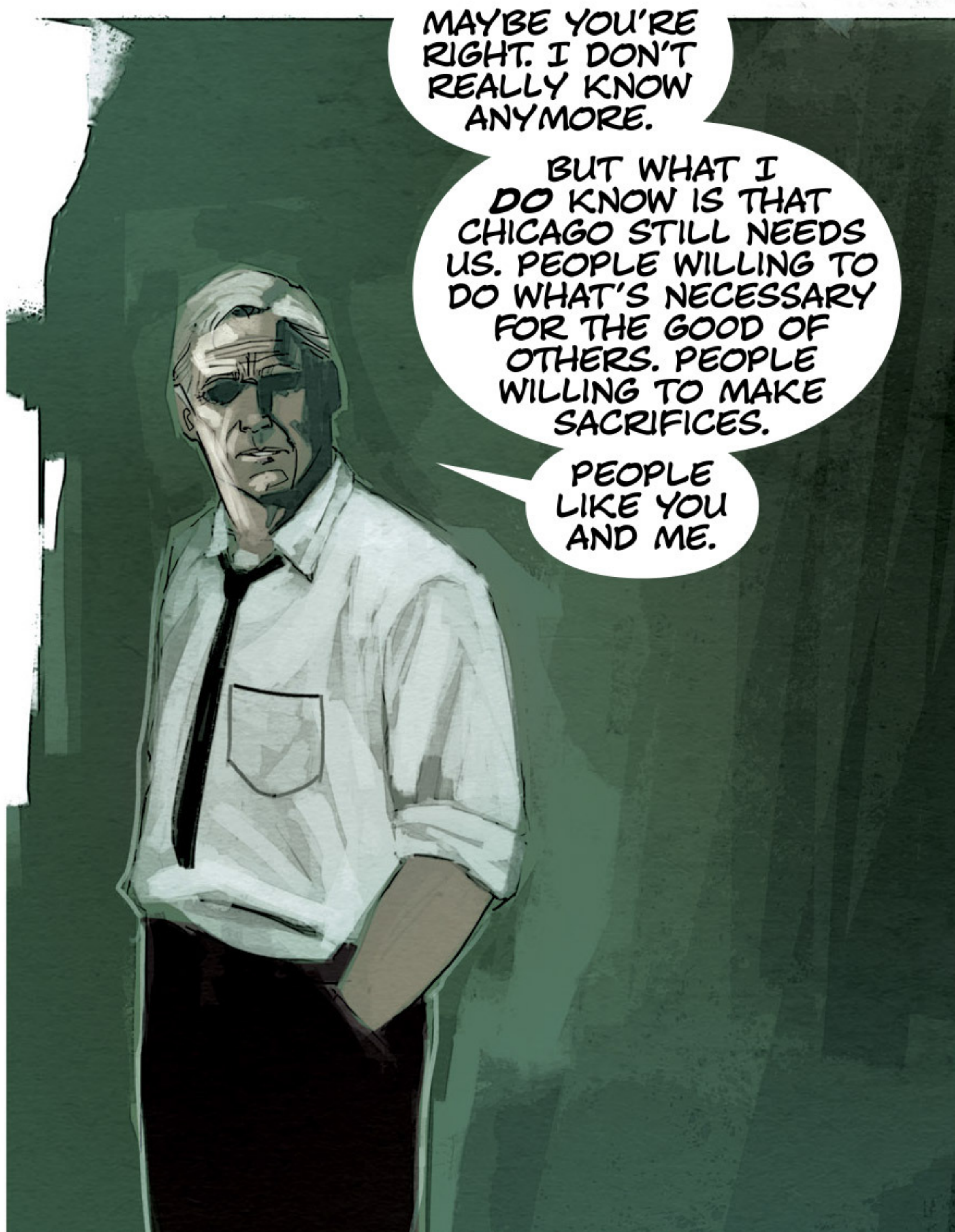
IN A LOT OF WAYS, I SEE MYSELF IN YOU. MORE THAN THE OTHERS.



IN A FEW YEARS, YOU COULD EASILY BE RUNNING C.O.W.L.



THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT IN A FEW YEARS.



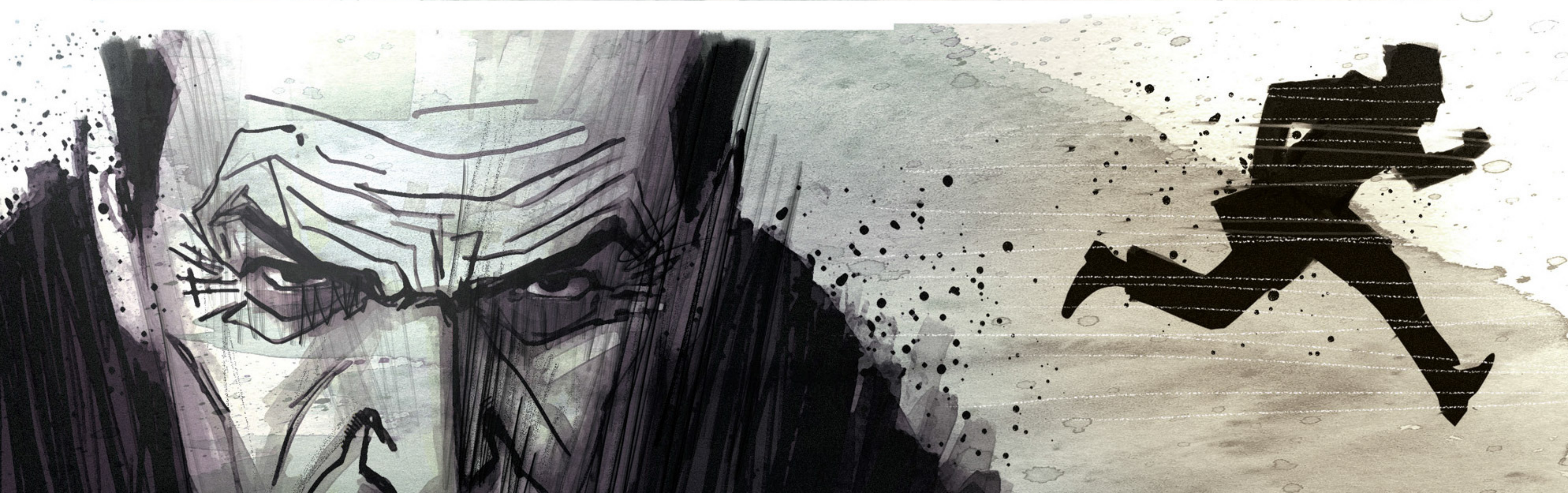
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYMORE.

BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT CHICAGO STILL NEEDS US. PEOPLE WILLING TO DO WHAT'S NECESSARY FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS. PEOPLE WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES.

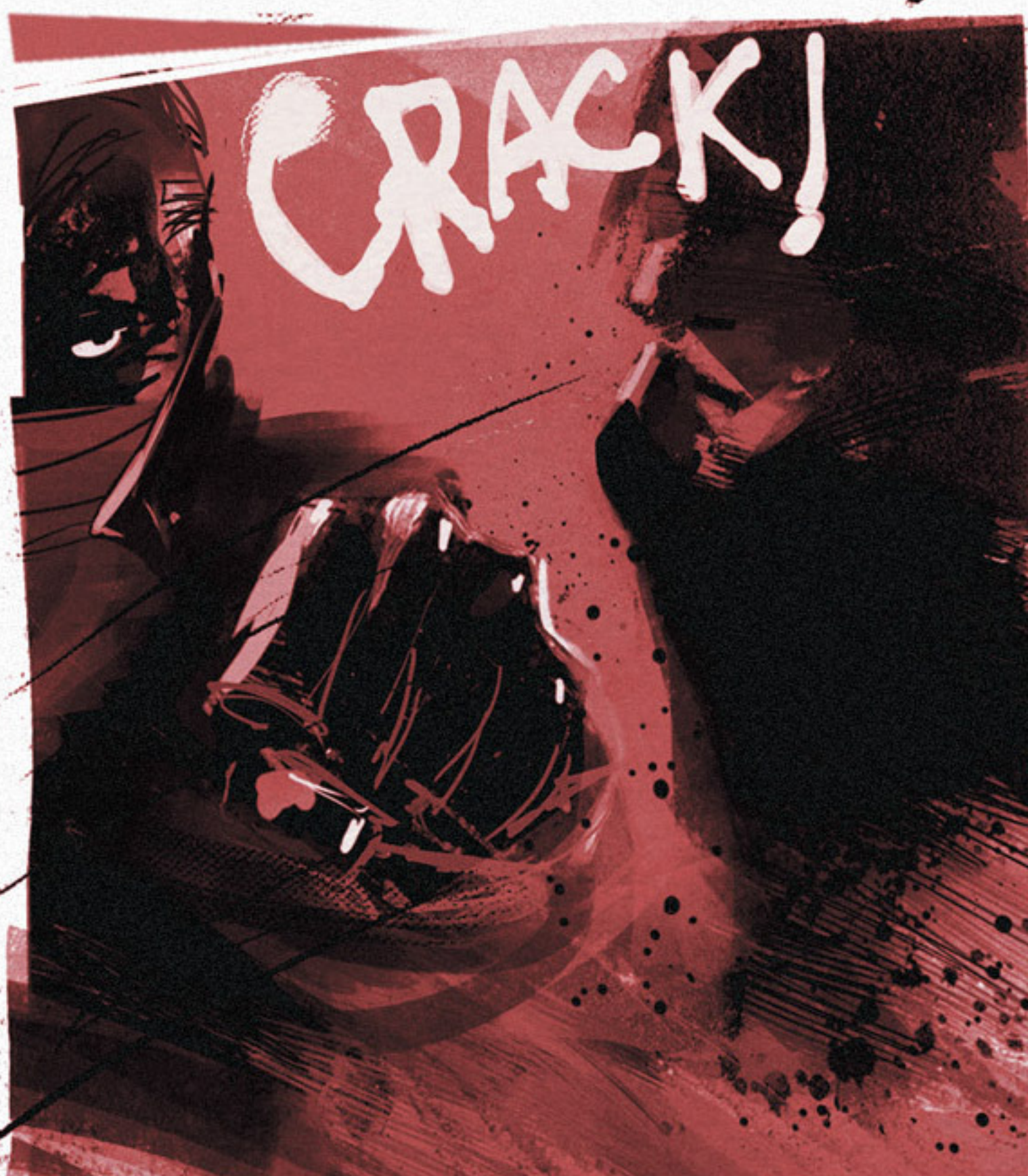
PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME.



HEROES.



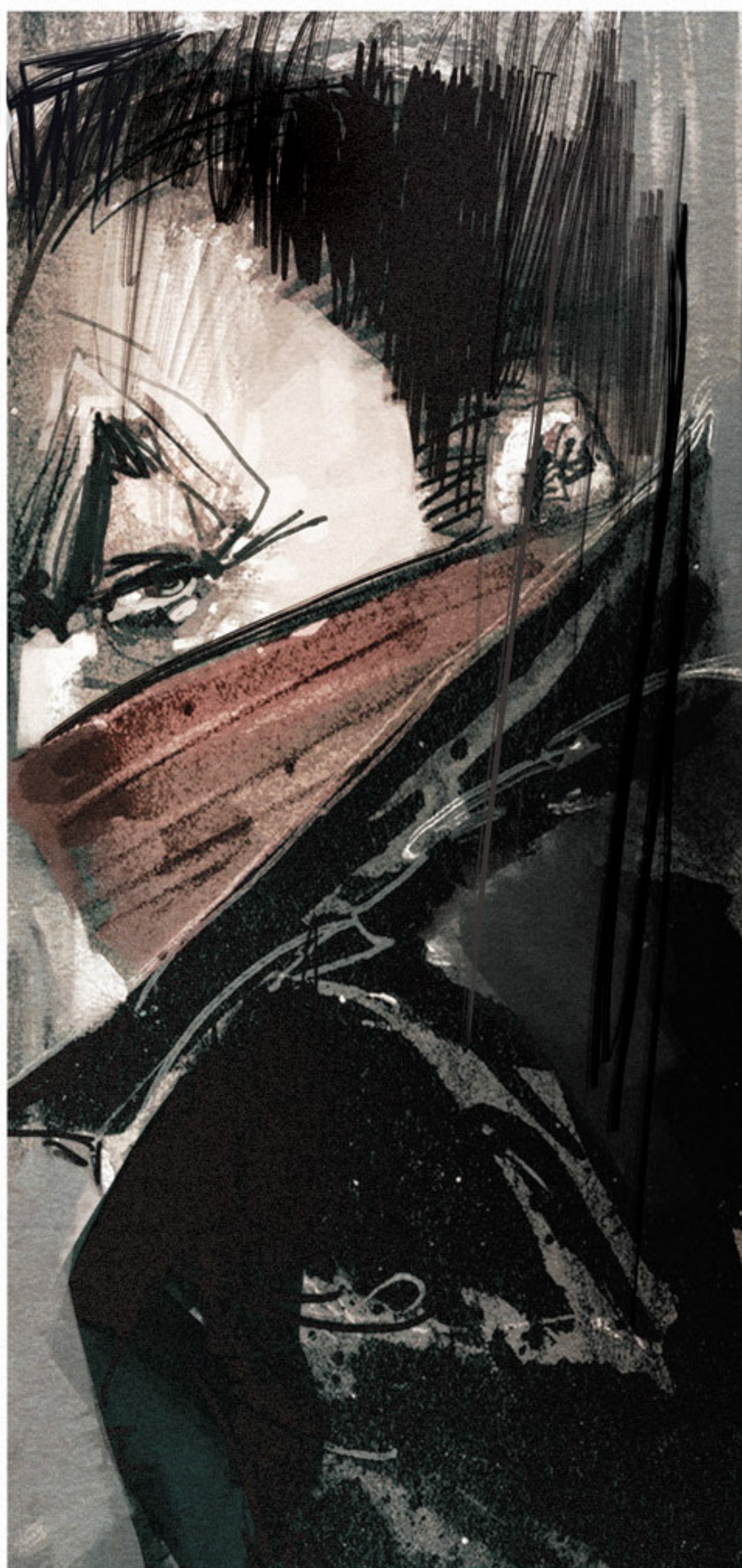






TRYING TO
FIND YOU,
ACTUALLY.
BEFORE THE
MEET. I
HEARD THE
SCREAMS...
AND...

...YEAH...



THERE'S NO
TALKING YOU
OUT OF THIS,
RIGHT?



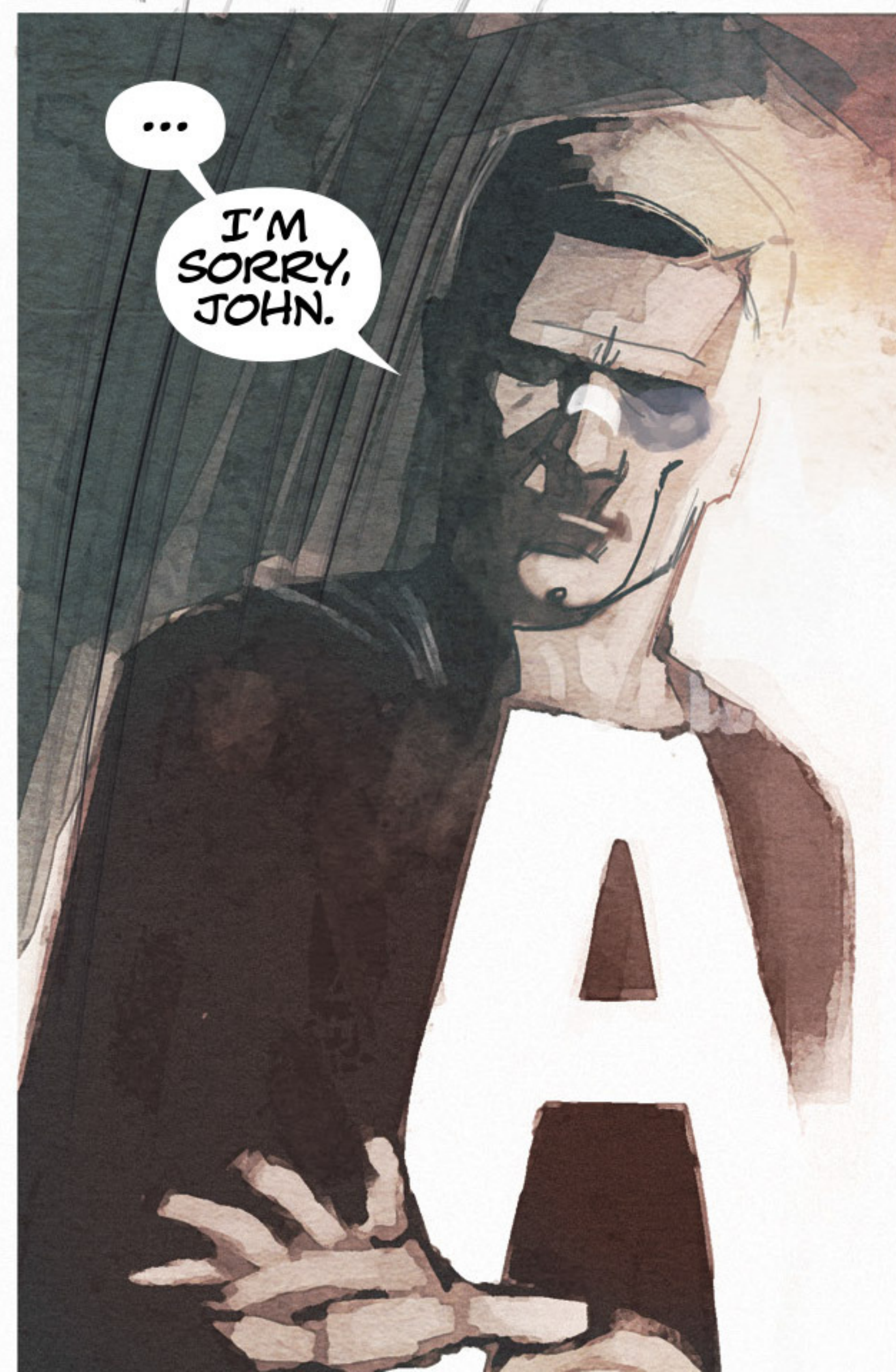
YOU KNOW, THE ODDS OF
THESE GUYS ROBBING
THAT PLACE WHEN THEY
DID, *WHERE* THEY DID,
AND YOU JUMPING IN
TO STOP THEM...

IF YOU
HADN'T, YOU'D
PROBABLY
ALREADY BE
WITH YOUR
CONTACT.

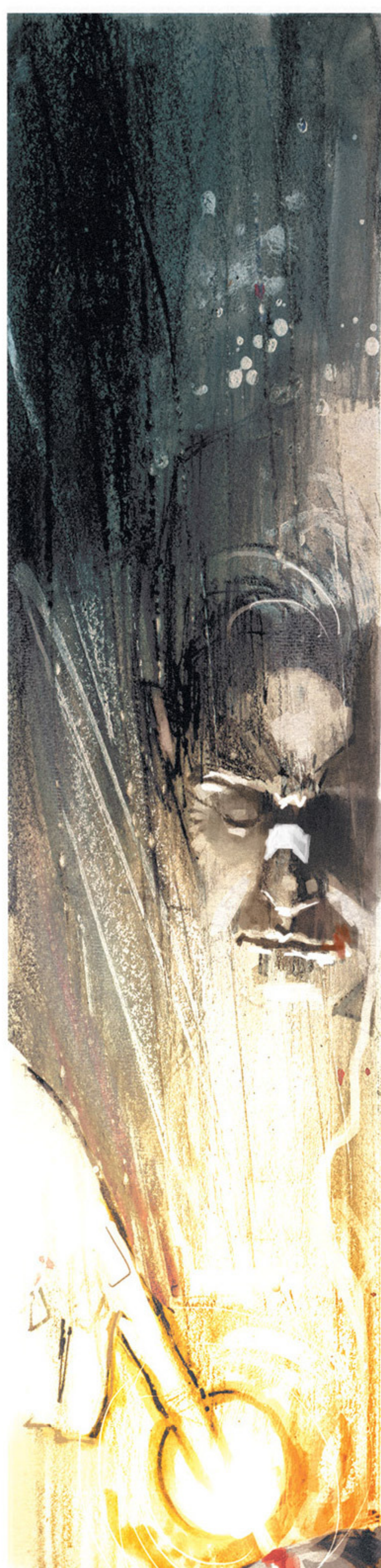
THAT'S
PRETTY WILD,
WHEN YOU
THINK
ABOUT IT.



FUCK YOU,
TOM.



...
I'M
SORRY,
JOHN.



THAT WHEN IT WAS
TIME, I'D BE READY
TO SAY GOODBYE.

I GUESS I
WAS WRONG.



I'VE SPENT
TOO MANY YEARS
BUILDING THIS
THING, JUST TO
HAVE THEM TAKE
IT FROM ME
NOW.



DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M
ASKING?







FILE 001-67			
1.	SERIAL NO.	56-8754-7895	X
2.	REGISTRATION		RB: 78
3.	CLASSIFICATION	X-75-RD5	
4.			
COMMENTS:			
LOG NO.			
DEPT.			

RESTRICTED

C.O.W.L.

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Geoffrey Peter Warner
Date of Birth: 08/17/1907
Place of Birth:
Chicago, IL (Washington Park)
Height: 6'3"
Hair: Brown/Grey
Weight: 220lbs
Eyes: Blue

Alias: The Grey Raven (retired)

C.O.W.L. Position: Chief



Skills: Expert strategist, marksman, hand-to-hand combatant

Biography:

Warner grew up on the streets of Chicago's Southside. The son of a long-serving police officer, he applied to the police academy but never attended. For a time, Warner moved through the boxing circuit in the city, winning his fair share of fights and earning himself the nickname Warring Warner. In 1931, he hung up the boxing gloves and created his now-famous persona The Grey Raven, quickly making a name for himself protecting the helpless in the city's crime-filled, Depression-era streets.

When America entered World War II at the end of 1941, Warner added war hero to his list of accomplishments. As the leader of a covert ops unit called ██████████ Warner fought in Occupied France, Italy, ██████████ Germany.

Post-war, Warner returned to Chicago. Along with several other heroes-- notably his young sidekick, Sparrow, and fellow ██████████ Blaze-- Warner used his political contacts from the war to push for the formation of the Chicago Organized Workers League in 1949. Warner continued to fight as The Grey Raven until the mid-1950s, when he hung up his costume after ██████████ Now, retired from combat, he leads C.O.W.L. in an administrative and political capacity.



FILE 002-48			
1.	SERIAL NO.	28-1986-1010	X
2.	REGISTRATION	UNKNOWN	TM: 56
3.	CLASSIFICATION	B-445-TH8	
4.			
COMMENTS: NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED			
LOG NO.		5681125994	
DEPT.			

C.O.W.L.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Thomas Gregory Haydn
Date of Birth: 04/06/1932
Place of Birth:
Duluth, MN
Height: 6'0"
Hair: Blonde
Weight: 207lbs
Eyes: Brown

Alias: Arclight

C.O.W.L. Position: Tactical Division

Skills: Flight, focused energy bursts

Biography:

Haydn was born in Duluth, Minnesota, the son of a Great Lakes Captain. After the death of his mother, Haydn spent his formative years sailing with his father back and forth between Duluth and the other Great Lakes ports.

On his eighteenth birthday, Haydn joined the U.S. Army. He was assigned to "A" Company [REDACTED] and sent to fight in Korea. In late 1954, Haydn was recruited by [REDACTED]. He graduated at the top of his class and chose to join [REDACTED], a covert operation aimed at placing [REDACTED] operatives into key political positions throughout [REDACTED]

While on assignment in Europe in October 1956, Haydn was exposed to radiation near [REDACTED]. The incident left him with the ability to fly, as well as channel and discharge focused energy bursts.

In November, 1957, Haydn left the [REDACTED] and moved to Chicago where he joined the Chicago Organized Workers League. His powers quickly made him a standout, and he now works as part of the organization's elite Tactical Unit.





FILE 003-16			
1.	SERIAL NO.	56-9842-2356	X
2.	REGISTRATION	NONE	HG: 45
3.	CLASSIFICATION	A-258-PH7	
4.			
COMMENTS: NONE			
LOG NO.		5685432586	
DEPT.		TACTICAL	

C.O.W.L.

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Kathryn Beverly Mitchell
Date of Birth: 08/27/1933
Place of Birth:
Olympia, WA
Height: 5'7"
Hair: Blonde
Weight: 125lbs
Eyes: Blue

Alias: Radia

C.O.W.L. Position: Tactical Division

Skills: Telekinesis



Biography:
Mitchell was born in Olympia, Washington to a surgeon, Charles Mitchell, and his wife, Edith. Of Irish and German descent, she was raised Catholic and attended St. Michael's Catholic School along with her older brother, Raymond. Her mother was active in the city's artistic community, and the family spent many weekends along the shores of Budd Inlet socializing with other painters and photographers.

When Mitchell was seven-years-old she began to display telekinetic abilities. Though Mitchell's parents initially thought it best to keep her power a secret, they eventually sought help and brought their daughter to doctors in Seattle. There, Mitchell learned to control her powers.

Upon graduating high school, she attended Seattle University where she studied Political Science. Post-college she moved between several different jobs, none of which utilized her telekinetic ability. In 1958, Mitchell decided that her abilities could be put to use helping people and she left Seattle for Chicago, where she immediately applied to join the Chicago Organized Workers League.



FILE 004-14			
1.	SERIAL NO.	22-1992-0117	X
2.	REGISTRATION	CLASSIFIED	TT: 56
3.	CLASSIFICATION	Z-117-ZF1	
4.			
COMMENTS: CLASSIFIED			
LOG NO.		8619753246	
DEPT.		TACTICAL	

CONFIDENTIAL

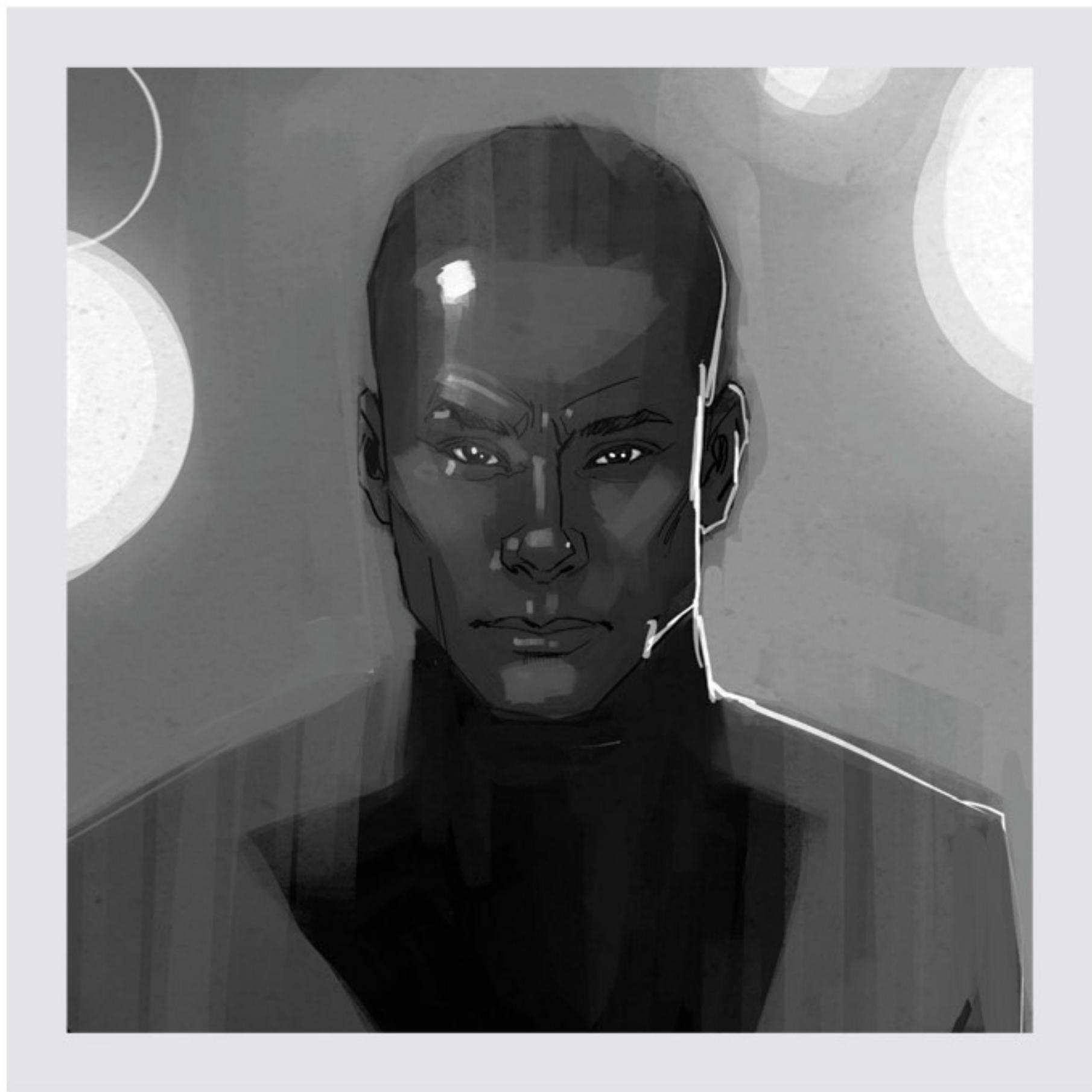
C.O.W.L.

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Reginald Joseph Davis
Date of Birth: 11/15/1912
Place of Birth:
East Chicago, IN
Height: 6'0"
Hair: Black/Gray
Weight: 194lbs
Eyes: Brown

Alias: Blaze

C.O.W.L. Position: Deputy Chief, Head
of Tactical Division



Skills: Zero-point energy manipulation (technology-based)

Biography:
Davis was born in East Chicago, Indiana. His father was killed in Europe during World War I, leaving his mother to raise him and his younger brother, Elliot. But while Elliot manifested increased speed and reflexes (one of the first known instances of super powers), Reginald did not. Reginald watched as Elliot took to the streets in the mid-1930s as "The Dart," following in the crimefighting footsteps of The Grey Raven.

When the U.S. entered World War II, Davis joined the U.S. Marines. He distinguished himself in combat and was hand-picked by The Grey Raven for an elite commando unit, [REDACTED] On a covert mission in Germany, Davis discovered a gauntlet implementing zero-point energy technology. With it, he learned to manipulate energy and move objects with nothing more than a gesture. Because of the cyan glow it created, soldiers dubbed him "The Blue Blaze."

After the war, Davis returned to Chicago with Warner, perpetuating his Blaze persona. He, along with Warner and Paul Braddock, started the Chicago Organized Workers League. Elliot, however, did not join.

During the 1950s, Elliot grew increasingly contemptuous of C.O.W.L., and eventually became the de facto leader of the Chicago Six. In 1955, Elliot brutally [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Davis now serves as C.O.W.L.'s Deputy Chief as well as the head of its Tactical Division.



FILE 005-01			
1.	SERIAL NO.	04-2010-0626	-
2.	REGISTRATION	EXEMPT	XB: 14
3.	CLASSIFICATION	R-395-JK2	
4.			
COMMENTS: NONE			
LOG NO. 5634822259			
DEPT. INVESTIGATIONS			

C.O.W.L.

CONFIDENTIAL
DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Name: Jonathan Christopher Pierce
Date of Birth: 10/12/1920
Place of Birth:
Sturgis, South Dakota
Height: 5'9"
Hair: Black
Weight: 175lbs
Eyes: Brown

Alias: None

C.O.W.L. Position: Detective



Skills: Covert operations, hand-to-hand combat

Biography:

Pierce was born in Sturgis, South Dakota. The son of an Army colonel, he spent his early years moving from military base to military base. Seeking to follow in his father's footsteps, Pierce enrolled at West Point in 1938 and was accepted with a nomination from Senator [REDACTED]

Upon graduating in 1942, Pierce became one of the first recruits of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the agency tasked with coordinating intelligence efforts against the Axis powers. He spent the war years conducting covert missions in Germany and aided in training resistance forces in Nazi-occupied France.

After the war, Pierce played a large role in Operation [REDACTED] and Operation [REDACTED]. But when the OSS was splintered into pieces and became the Central Intelligence Agency, Pierce was sent to Chicago to infiltrate [REDACTED] members of which were suspected of being agents of the KGB.

Inspired by the work being done by the Chicago Organized Workers League, Pierce left the CIA in 1956, and joined the superhero organization's Investigations Division.

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—**THE AV CLUB**

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—**PASTE MAGAZINE**

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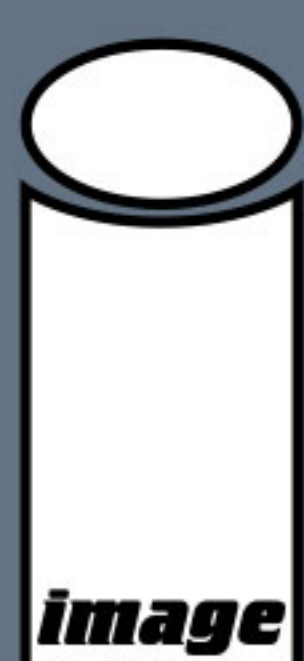
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RATED M/MATURE
CRIME FICTION/SUPERHERO



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